INSIDE THE RACE ROW RIPPING ROCK APART...

PHIL ANSELMO

EXCLUSIVE!

DEFTONES

NEW ALBUM! THE FIRST INTERVIEW!

KERRANG!

10 HOT-AS-HELL POSTERS!

ALL TIME LOW PRESENT THE

VALENTINE'S ISSUE

ROCK CELEBRATES THE PAW-ER OF LOVE!

TONIGHT ALIVE

BARE THEIR SOULS!

ROCKSTAR ANIMAL ATTACKS!

TERRIFYING TALES INSIDE!

WE ARE THE IN CROWD

TAY JARDINE IS BACK. AND SHE'S GOT BIG NEWS

METAL LOGOS!

THE SECRETS BEHIND THE SYMBOLS

THE KERRANG! TOUR

THE ULTIMATE PREVIEW!

DON'T WORRY, JACK'S INSIDE. HE'S LOOKING WOOF

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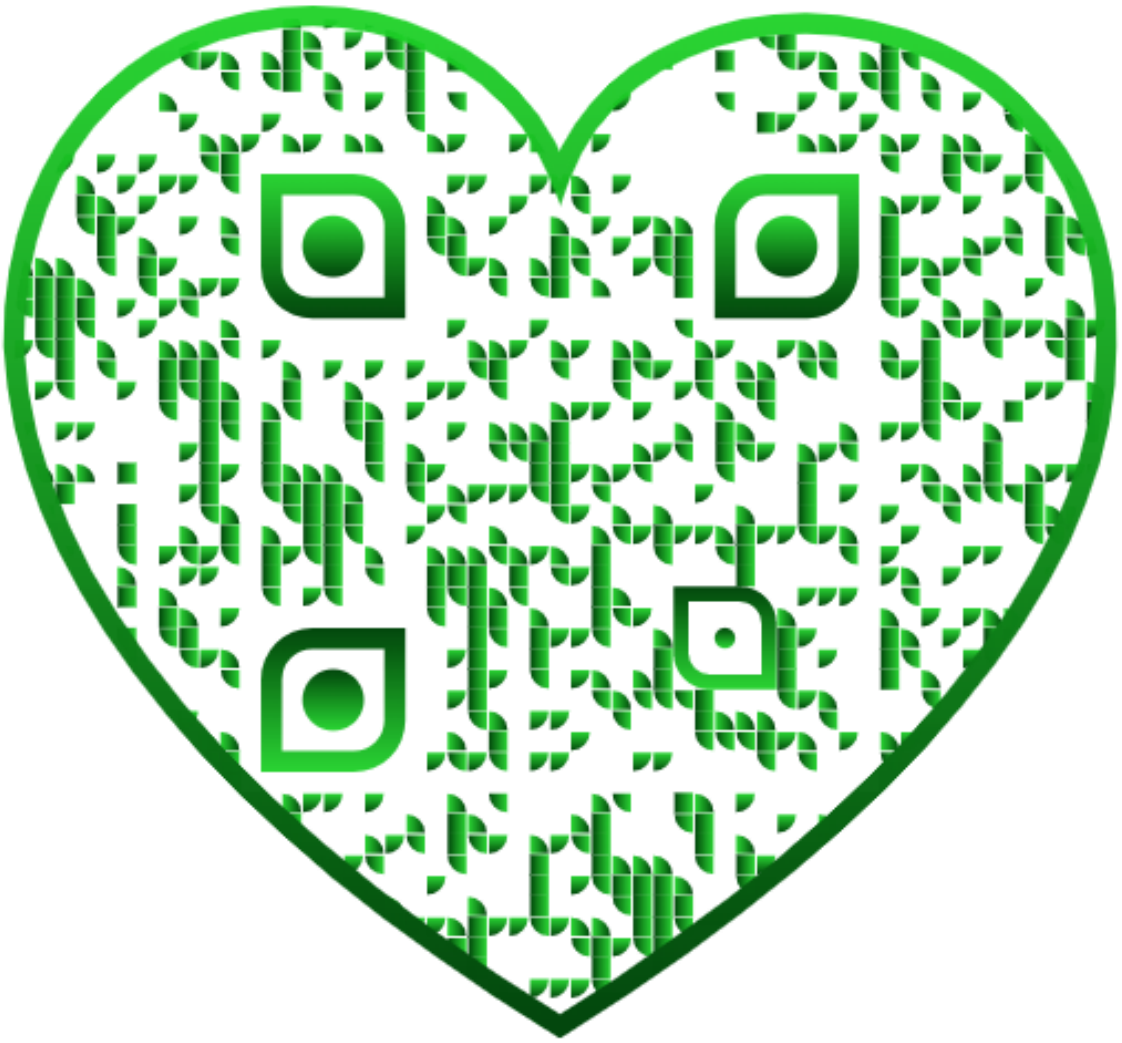

PANIC! AT THE DISCO

OF MICE & MEN

NEW FOUND GLORY

MALLORY KNOX

YELLOWCARD
OCEAN AVENUE

MAYDAY PARADE

THE STORY SO FAR

THE STARTING LINE

FOUR YEAR STRONG

EVERY TIME I DIE

CANCER BATS

NORMA JEAN

SET YOUR GOALS

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TONIGHT ALIVE p22

Jenna and the band come back brighter...

HELLO, READERS. Welcome to this week's special Valentine's-themed issue of your favourite rock magazine! Got a date yet? Don't worry! It is totally not weird to book a table for two and take your copy of this magazine out for a romantic meal. Totally not weird. Actually, whoever does that can win #Kommunity next week… Anyway, there's tons of great stuff in this issue. New interviews with Deftones, Tay Jardine (who's got big news for you), Tonight Alive, 10 (!!!) posters and a huge preview concerning 2016's hottest tour (um, that'll be ours). Not only that, on p14 you can find out how you can get a free, exclusive rockstar-designed T-shirt…

James
Editor

NEWS

ON THE COVER:

We bring you the first interview about **Deftones**' new album, Gore **(p4)**, and Tay Jardine reveals what the hell is going on with **We Are The In Crowd (p7)**. Elsewhere, **Yellowcard** get set to bring Ocean Avenue to **Slam Dunk**, and we find out what happened to **Benji Webbe (p6)**…

FEATURES

ON THE COVER:

All Time Low kick off our Valentine's extravaganza **(p16)** alongside some furry friends, **Against The Current (p21)**, **Tonight Alive (p22)** and a whole load more. If love isn't your thing, we've got the ultimate **Kerrang! Tour** preview **(p36)**, a look at how **Suicidal Tendencies** changed the face of rock **(p42)**, the inside story behind rock and metal's **Most Iconic Logos (p44)**, and we ask the question: what now for **Phil Anselmo (p40)**?

LIVES

Neck Deep and **State Champs** are punkin' all over the UK, and we got up to our necks in it with them in Birmingham **(p48)**. Then we popped down the pub with **Mallory Knox** for a teensy show **(p50)**, headed to a massive gig with **Black Stone Cherry**, and went to a dark, dark show with **Abbath (p51)**. Cor!

REVIEWS

Anthrax have a new album out, and we got all caught in a mosh when we put it on the office stereo **(p52)**. And just when we thought that was enough riffs for one day, bloody **Wolfmother** turn up, don't they **(p53)**? Blimey. And then **Bowling For Soup** told us about the making of Drunk Enough To Dance **(p55)**.

GIGS

Parkway Drive get ready to decimate the UK **(p56)**, and **Danni Monroe** gives us all of Cardiff's musical hot-spots **(p58)**.

COVER PHOTO: LINDSEY BYRNES

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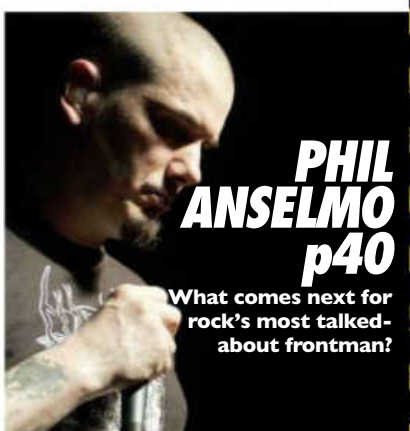
Lonely this V-Day? We've got 10 dates for you. Well, your wall...

KERRANG! TOUR p36

Not coming to our tour? NERRR! Find out what you're missing!



PHIL ANSELMO p40

What comes next for rock's most talked-about frontman?

Chino's invisible stool act was a hit

THE BIG STORY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER

THIS MEANS GORE!

AS **DEFTONES** REVEAL THE DETAILS BEHIND THEIR FORTHCOMING ALBUM, **GORE**, WE SIT DOWN WITH FRONTMAN **CHINO MORENO** FOR THE EXCLUSIVE FIRST INTERVIEW…

FOR THE past eight years, the Deftones story seems to have been written in inky black, laden with calamity and tragedy. From the hospitalisation and eventual passing of founding bassist Chi Cheng in 2013, to last year's close-shave with the Paris Bataclan attacks and the subsequently cancelled European tour, they've been a band plagued. Yet, with 2010's Diamond Eyes and 2012's Koi No Yokan, they produced two of the most defiantly optimistic records of their career. Eighth album Gore marks an artistic return to more experimental, darkly brooding territory. Here, Chino helps us understand why…

HEY, CHINO! IS IT A RELIEF TO RELEASE THE ALBUM DETAILS, FINALLY?

"It's exciting! There's still a little bit of time to go – a few months – until the actual release, so, slowly but surely, we've been leaking out information. We've been done for a few months now and we're all very surprised and excited about how the record turned out. We can't wait for people to hear it!"

GORE SEEMS LIKE A PROVOCATIVE TITLE… WAS THAT THE INTENTION?

"If you look at the title and the artwork it's about a juxtaposition that, for me, is very beautiful. I think Deftones have always flirted with dynamic and that yin-and-yang of things that are provocative and things that are beautiful. Where our last two album titles were a lot more optimistic, I think this title is intentionally different. This record is very different. I feel like Diamond Eyes and Koi No Yokan were brother-sister records in a lot of ways. They were both recorded in the same way. And even though it was a tough few years we went through while making those records, I think it was important to have their optimistic outlook."

AND YOU FEEL DIFFERENT NOW?

"Today, I feel different. But we also recorded this record in a different way. I'm not saying we went in with any preconceived ideas as such, but I do think we went in knowing that we wanted to make this record a little different from the last two. And I feel, definitely, like we did that. It's still a Deftones record – we didn't really have any new influences that changed that – but it's an expansion of what we were comfortable with. And it's important to get out of your comfort zone sometimes with

Gore's album artwork: not very gory at all

the music – just to be excited. It's got a different look. A different shade of colour. I'd say some shade of purple. I don't know why, but I think it sits somewhere between pink, red and purple. Sometimes when I hear music I see colour, and when it came time to work on the artwork for this batch of songs, I knew exactly what I wanted."

TELL US ABOUT THE TITLE-TRACK. IS IT A REPRESENTATIVE CENTREPIECE FOR THE RECORD?

"I don't think so, actually. It's just a title to the song. I will say that I love every single song on this record, but if I had to pick my least-favourite song on the record, Gore would be it. Is it the most important song on the record? No. It's a great song, but the others are even more great."

AND IF YOU HAD TO PICK YOUR FAVOURITE TRACK?

"Today, it'd be a song called Acid Hologram – the second song on the record. It's something that I've never heard from us. The way it came together for us was very Frankenstein-esque. Pieced together in the weirdest way. Sonically and aesthetically it's something really neat, very large-sounding. Notice I didn't use the word heavy, but large. Big. Heavy in its own way…"

TRACK ONE, PRAYERS/TRIANGLES, IS ALSO THE LEAD SINGLE. WAS THAT A SIMPLE CHOICE, OR IS THERE SOMETHING MORE TO IT?

"As a lead single, I think Prayers/Triangles was always the right choice. On White Pony, Change was the first single – probably the biggest song of our career. Huge sounding, but still mid-tempo. And I'd say there are songs on this record that are similar to that, but we didn't want that this time. Prayers/Triangles is very much 'in the middle' with that dynamic that best represents us, while still being a departure from our last record."

SO, WHAT CAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE OTHER TRACKS?

"I think this is one of our most eclectic albums. It's where we are in our careers and in our lives. We've had a lot of time to try different things. But we

WORDS: SAM LAW PHOTO: GETTY

Deftones (L – R): Sergio Vega (bass), Stef Carpenter (guitar), Chino Moreno (vocals), Abe Cunningham (drums) and Frank Delgado (keys/turntables)

didn't write tons and tons of songs; maybe only 16, and there are 11 on the record. We weren't second-guessing ourselves, and we took our time being as expansive as we could with those ideas."

WHAT WERE YOUR AMBITIONS GOING INTO THE ALBUM?

"The ambition was as simple as us just wanting to create something. We've made it a thing not to overanalyse before [we begin]. I think that puts up walls. When we came to recording, I'd been out of California for a while doing stuff with Crosses, and getting back together brought that excitement. Just thinking, 'I get to play music with my friends again!'"

AND WAS GETTING TO WORK IN YOUR HOME STUDIO A CHANGE OF PACE?

"None of the stuff I recorded in my home studio actually ended up getting onto the record! I did demo all of my vocals at the house. But I learned that while working at home is nice, it's good to get away. I love having my family and my dogs running around, but when I'd just be waking up and going into my studio in my pyjamas I actually wasn't getting as much work done. [For final recording] I'd drive to this studio about 10 miles from my house, it'd be like, 'Boom, boom, boom!' just getting work done every day."

TWO DECADES INTO YOUR CAREER, DO YOU FEEL THE SAME ANXIETY ABOUT NEW MUSIC THAT YOU DID AS A YOUNGER BAND?

"Always. Maybe even more now. When we were younger – especially with [1995's] Adrenaline – I didn't think anybody would like the record. I didn't even really like that record. Nowadays, there are a lot more expectations put on us from the people who've been following us for 20 years that it'll be good, you know? I do still trust my instincts, though. I know that this is good. I listen to this record almost every day, still. As fragmented as it is, it's a very cohesive piece of work from start to finish. We planned it that way, and it worked. That's really fulfilling."

YOU'VE SPOKEN AT LENGTH ABOUT THIS BEING THE FIRST RECORD SINCE CHI'S PASSING. DO YOU FEEL THIS AN ALBUM HE'D HAVE BEEN PROUD OF?

"I definitely think so. He was a very big part of this band for many a year. He still is, in a big way. I definitely still feel his presence when we're making music and when we're playing live music."

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO TAKE AWAY FROM THE RECORD?

"A great listening experience. I don't like to dictate to people what emotion they should be feeling when they listen to our music, I just hope it speaks to them. I want people to have an emotional experience. I feel that this record is a tool to have that."

For more updates on Deftones, head to **Kerrang.com**

"I STILL FEEL CHI'S PRESENCE WHEN WE'RE MAKING MUSIC"

CHINO MORENO

SKINDRED'S BENJI WEBBE ATTACKED

THE **SKINDRED** FRONTMAN TALKS TO **KERRANG!** AFTER BEING SLASHED IN THE NECK ON A NIGHT OUT…

ON FRIDAY January 29, Skindred frontman and Kerrang! Awards host Benji Webbe was attacked whilst on his way home from a night out in Newport.

The alleged attackers – who slashed him in the throat, leaving him needing 24 stitches – were two women. One, aged 40, has been arrested for assault, and another, 29, has been arrested for affray and criminal damage.

With the pair currently on police bail, we caught up with Benji to see how he's doing…

HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

"A bit shaken up, but that's to be expected. It's stopped now, but yesterday when I spoke I could see the stitches opening, and I could see the inside of the flesh – which was freaking me right out."

HOW HAS THE PAST WEEK AND A HALF'S RECOVERY BEEN? HAS IT BEEN FRUSTRATING HAVING TO REST UP AT HOME?

"The thing is, I was doing so well at the *gym* – I was going daily, but because of the sweat and needing to not get the blood pressure pumping, I can't go at the moment! And every friendly bastard keeps bringing me pasties and cakes (*laughs*)!"

ARE YOU CURRENTLY TAKING PAINKILLERS? WILL THIS AFFECT ANY OF SKINDRED'S PLANS FOR THE YEAR?

"Yeah, and I've had to postpone stuff I had going on this week because I'm trying not to push my voice, but I'm still looking forward to rocking the summer festivals and preaching the word of unity and rock'n'roll."

TWELVE DAYS ON, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE INCIDENT, AND THAT IT HAPPENED IN YOUR HOMETOWN?

"It's just crazy, man, I never expected something like that to happen. The funny thing is, the first single off [2015 album] Volume is called Under Attack (*laughs*)! I've travelled the world a lot – it's ironic that it happened in my hometown."

GET WELL SOON, BENJI!

Benji posted this photo after the attack

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

OCEAN AVENUE COMES TO SLAM DUNK

MORE BANDS ANNOUNCED! PLUS **YELLOWCARD** PREPARE TO PLAY THEIR 2003 ALBUM, OCEAN AVENUE, IN FULL…

AMONGST THE latest additions to Slam Dunk Festival – which include Mayday Parade, Hit The Lights, ROAM, Northlane, Hacktivist, Cancer Bats and Norma Jean – are Florida pop-punks Yellowcard, who are set to play their 2003 career-making Ocean Avenue album in full.

"When Ocean Avenue exploded, we went from trying to get on whatever shows we could as an opener to playing the main stage at Warped Tour and winning a Moonman at the MTV VMA's," explains frontman Ryan Key.

And what are they most looking forward to about playing the album back-to-back?

"There are a lot of songs from Ocean Avenue that we don't play often in our regular sets," adds Ryan. "So, I'm looking forward to revisiting those and seeing Yellowcard fans who are really happy hearing the whole record played live."

The shows will also be Yellowcard's first time playing Slam Dunk… "I've heard the crowd is insane. If you look at the line-up, how could they not lose their minds?"

FOR MORE INFO, SEE THE GIG GUIDE

Yellowcard's Ryan Key was terrified of giant Tay

NEW YEAR'S TAY

AFTER A SOUL-SEARCHING BREAK, **WE ARE THE IN CROWD** SINGER **TAY JARDINE** IS BACK WITH A NEW PROJECT. HERE, SHE EXPLAINS EVERYTHING…

2015 WAS turning out to be a big year for We Are The In Crowd. In February, the Poughkeepsie pop-punks completed a killer stint on the Kerrang! Tour, before starting work on the follow-up to 2014's Weird Kids. Bassist Mike Ferri announced the album's completion in May, tweeting: "The 3rd WATIC is now complete and I can breathe again. #coolstuff." But after that? Well, *nothing*… and it left everyone wondering, "What the hell is going on?" Last week (K!1605) we teased that there was some big news coming from Tay Jardine. So, finally, here it is…

HEY, TAY! SO, WHAT THE HELL HAS HAPPENED WITH WATIC?

"That's the exact question we were worried about (*laughs*)! Nothing happened… We had written a new record, but it felt like it was a totally different sound for us – it didn't feel like WATIC. So, why call it that? Because WATIC will always exist – nothing can stop that. Right now, what we're looking forward to is starting this brand-new project and we'd love our current fans to come on this journey with us, we really don't want them to be afraid or worried about WATIC's future."

BUT IS THIS A SOLO PROJECT OR A BAND? TELL US MORE…

"A lot of people will think this is a solo project, but I don't see it like that at all. Mike, Cameron [Hurley, guitar] and Robert [Chianelli, drums] from WATIC are all involved – the only person that isn't is Jordan [Eckes, guitar and vocals], and that was just a personal choice. So, it's not really a solo thing and has a name… It's not like Tay Jardine And The So-And-Sos. There was no break-up [with Jordan]… We're all still really good friends. The main difference is the sound in general – it's mainly based around my vocals and my vision for music."

AND IS IT HEAVIER OR MORE POPPY?

"It's definitely more pop. It's definitely not heavier! It's very… I'm afraid to use the word 'dancey', because it's not, like, techno or anything. But you can tell it's come from WATIC and been chucked in a blender with loads of really poppy, fun stuff. Someone compared it to that DNCE Cake By The Ocean song! It's kinda like that… dancey and fun, but you could still go to a show and rock out to it. As far as releasing it, we're discussing all that right now. But I think it will be in the next couple of months."

"A THERAPIST HELPED ME FIGURE OUT WHO I WAS AGAIN"
TAY JARDINE

WERE YOU EVER WORRIED PEOPLE MIGHT THINK WATIC ARE OVER?

"There's been a lot of confusion, especially on social media. People have been like, 'Oh my gosh, something's happening!' And they were right! It was hard for us to keep it under wraps, but we had to hold back and stay quiet, then come out with a bang and say, 'This is what's going on, come along! Or don't (*laughs*)!' I don't think it would feel the same if we put the WATIC stamp on this. I'd rather call it something new because the sound is so different… I don't want to confuse people. If our fans truly, truly want a new WATIC record to come out, that's what we'll eventually do. But, right now, we're so committed to this new project."

AND HOW ARE YOU FEELING AFTER ALL THAT TIME OFF?

"I feel like a totally different person. We've had six months off, which is the most amount of time off I've had in six years. It's been incredible! We've still been working together, but it's all been happening off tour. It hasn't been draining, like constant touring. I've overcome a huge… I don't know what to call it. During the time we were writing it as a WATIC record, I had a lot of depression for some reason."

THAT SOUNDS HORRIBLE… WHAT HAPPENED AND ARE YOU OKAY NOW?

"Nothing really happened, it was just this really strange feeling that I've never felt before! Now I realise this happens to all people and I'm not a freak (*laughs*)! I had to really understand that and overcome it, talk to people and figure things out. I saw a therapist who talked me out of things and helped me figure out who I was again. Because after six years of touring, it was like, 'What are we doing? Oh my gosh!' It freaked me out and this record ended up becoming the most positive thing I could ever imagine."

For updates on Tay's new project, visit **Kerrang.com**

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA **PHOTO:** NIGEL CRANE

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WHEN ANIMALS ATTACK

WHITESNAKE'S DAVID COVERDALE RELIVES HIS REVENANT-STYLE BEAR ENCOUNTER – PLUS, WE LOOK AT OTHER VICTIMS OF ANIMAL ANGER…

ANYONE WHO'S seen *that* scene in recent Leonardo DiCaprio flick The Revenant will know bears can be right fuckers when threatened. So, when Whitesnake legend David Coverdale occasionally finds them wandering around inside his Lake Tahoe retreat, he, unsurprisingly, has an "involuntary bowel movement".

The singer says the worst occasion was when he heard noises, which he mistook for an intruder, before grabbing air horns (apparently, the only useful bear repellent).

"As I walked out of my office, 20 feet away, coming out of a guest room was this fucking huge black bear's head!" he remembers. "I slipped arse-over-tit going in the room. The carpet was utterly soaked and covered in big paw prints."

While David says he's gotten rid of six bears over the years, that wasn't the last to ruin his carpet. "I came upstairs and saw shit all over the floor in the living room," he says. "I shouted my inimitable northern bellow, and this fucking big beautiful black bear's head just turns round the corner from the kitchen looking like, 'Yes?'"

After shouting at the bear to leave (while fearing for his life), the frontman says it "got on its hind legs and knocked over a marble column with a Tiffany lamp on it. But he got out… He left a trail of devastation."

JAMIE OLIVER *MOUNTAIN LION*

The No Devotion keyboardist had a run-in with this big cat on a trail run. After a terrifying stand-off, with Jamie shouting, "Fuck off! Fuck off you bastard, I'll fucking kill you!" the lion finally backed away. "I reported the incident to the ranger and he said I was extremely lucky," says Jamie.

JOHNNY CASH *OSTRICH*

Johnny Cash was near-murdered by one of these long-necked gits in 1981, after it ripped his stomach down to his belt with its toe claw. "If the belt hadn't been good and strong," he said, "he'd have spilled my guts exactly the way he meant to."

PAUL McCARTNEY *GRASSHOPPER*

The Beatles (ironic, huh?) legend was playing a stadium show in Brazil in May 2013 when a gang of Esperanca Grilo grasshoppers swarmed him onstage, taking up residence on his shoulder, piano and mic stand. Being vegetarian, he obviously let them stay for the show.

JARED FOLLOWILL *PIGEON*

Kings Of Leon abandoned a gig in Missouri in 2010, after an infestation of pigeons in the venue's rafters plopped on Jared Followill. *Four* times in the first three songs. "We had 22 songs in the set," he said. "I'm no mathematician, but I would have been completely covered in shit!"

WORDS: MICHAEL HANN, PAUL STOKES

PANDORA BY RAY ZELL Rayzell.com

WHAT'CHA LOOKIN' AT, P?
HEH-HEH. THE SNEAKY PICS TAKEN AT THE GLASSJAW OLD BLUE LAST GIG DESPITE THE 'PLEASE NO PHONES' REQUEST.
NO PHONES? HMM...
...S'POSE I CAN UNDERSTAND IT.
SAY WHAT, WEB?!
WELL...
... I'VE BEEN TO SMALL CLUB SHOWS WHERE I REALISE I'M ACTUALLY WATCHING THE GIG FROM PEOPLE'S PHONE SCREENS COS I CAN'T ACTUALLY SEE THE BAND I PAID TO SEE.
WTF! ARE YOU RAGING AGAINST THE PHONE!?
I'M NOT RAGING...
... I'M IGNITING A REASONED DEBATE.
YEAH?! WELL, WHERE DOES IT END?! FIRST PHONES, BUT WHAT NEXT!? WHAT COLOUR T-SHIRT WE CAN'T WEAR TO THE GIG!? WHAT KIND OF SANDWICH WE CAN'T EAT BEFORE WE GET THERE!?
I SAY THEE NAY!
OKAY, OKAY, I SEE YOUR POINT, TOO. WHY DON'T WE JUST AGREE TO SLIGHTLY DISAGREE.
NO, I'LL AGREE THAT I'M RIGHT.
SO...
...WANNA DO A SELFIE?
YOU KIDDIN'...
... I AIN'T DONE MY MAKEUP OR HAIR!!!

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+ DODHEIMSGARD, THULCANDRA & OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON US

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THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

THERE HASN'T BEEN A (RED)SHIFT IN THE CHART THIS WEEK – **ENTER SHIKARI** HAVE FENDED OFF **TONIGHT ALIVE**, **PANIC!** AND A NEW ENTRY FROM **TWENTY ONE PILOTS**…

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	3	1	ENTER SHIKARI	Redshift	AMBUSH REALITY
2	2	2	TONIGHT ALIVE	How Does It Feel?	FEARLESS
3	12	1	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Emperor's New Clothes	FUELED BY RAMEN
4	3	3	HALESTORM	I Am The Fire	ATLANTIC
5	10	2	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Victorious	FUELED BY RAMEN
6	1	6	TWENTY ONE PILOTS	Stressed Out	FUELED BY RAMEN
7	1	7	SHINEDOWN	State Of My Head	ATLANTIC
8	7	6	DON BROCO	Nerve	SONY
9	5	9	BLACK PEAKS	Saviour	SONY
10	7	6	THE QEMISTS	Run You	AMAZING RECORD CO
11	1	7	ZEBRAHEAD	Worse Than This	RUDE
12	2	12	BOY JUMPS SHIP	Burn	AMAZING RECORD CO
13	2	10	KILLSWITCH ENGAGE	Strength Of The Mind	ROADRUNNER
14	1	14	LIKE A STORM	Become The Enemy	ANOTHER CENTURY
15	7	7	BABYMETAL	Doki Doki Morning	EARMUSIC
16	9	3	AS IT IS	Speak Soft	HOPELESS
17	12	7	BEAUTIFUL BODIES	Capture & Release	EPITAPH
18	2	18	GRUMBLE BEE	Sky Writer	UNSIGNED
19	1	19	VUKOVI	Bouncy Castle	LAB RECORDS
20	12	2	ASKING ALEXANDRIA	I Won't Give In	SUMERIAN

ROU REYNOLDS, ENTER SHIKARI

HI, ROU! SO, WHAT'S REDSHIFT ABOUT?
"Redshift is about how lucky we are to be living at this specific time in our universe's lifespan. Yup, it's a deep one! Our universe is not only expanding, but it's accelerating – getting bigger and bigger, faster and faster. We're so lucky to be alive at a time where we can still discover billions of other galaxies, stars, planets and, potentially, life forms!"

IS THE TRACK A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?
"No, our music has always been diverse, and I don't see that changing. The best thing about being an artist is the freedom to be inconsistent, to be erratic and to make music that represents many different emotions."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE LYRIC AND WHY?
"'*A supergiant erupts into a supernova, the ultimate sacrifice, and we are the descendants*'. Forget Jesus – it was actually stars that died so we could be born."

SI TODD, BOY JUMPS SHIP

HEY, SI! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE IN THE ROCK CHART?
"It feels amazing to be back in the Kerrang! Rock Chart. We're in really good company, too."

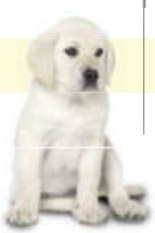
WHAT WAS IT LIKE WRITING THE TRACK?
"Burn was such a fun song to write. It has one of those riffs that makes you want to smash up your bedroom."

IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT THE SONG THAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW?
"It was the very first song we tracked for the album! It's also one of the songs that we enjoy playing live the most!"

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

KERRANG! TV
KERRANG! RADIO

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 10am and also on K! TV Thursdays at 4pm. Tune in and listen up!



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ISSUE 1606 FEB 13, 2016

FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS

MILK TEETH

SMELLS LIKE… THE BAND BRINGING THE '90S BACK TO LIFE!

WORDS: GEORGE GARNER PHOTO: ANDY FORD

RIGHT, WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE BATHING IN MILK AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

That's Milk Teeth (duh), and you should care because, to quote Tony the Tiger, '*Theyyyyy're great*'. Formed just two and a half years ago, over the space of two brilliant EPs and their recently released 5K-rated debut, Vile Child, they're reviving the spirit of '90s alt.rock in the most exciting way imaginable. Think Nirvana, Sonic Youth and the Pixies all stitched together with Smashing Pumpkins' fuzzy distortion. Sure, the Stroud trio might have all had actual milk teeth when some of these bands were changing the world, but that didn't stop them falling in love with the era. "It's definitely had an influence," explains singer/bassist Becky Blomfield. "I remember hearing Nirvana at school, and people would all wear grunge clothes – it was kind of a 'thing'. For me, it never left. It wasn't a phase."

BUT LOADS OF BANDS DO THE WHOLE '90S THING THESE DAYS, DON'T THEY?

Well, yes, but Milk Teeth do it much better, with a more appealing wink-wink approach – they even have yo-yos as merch, people! Crucially, Milk Teeth share something more important with the '90s, too. "Music in the '90s was very honest. I think that enabled me to be more honest in my own songwriting," says Becky. "Everything I've written about has happened to me, or I've seen happen to a friend." And songs like Kabuki and Brain Food in particular are littered with

> ***"EVERYTHING I WRITE ABOUT HAS HAPPENED"***

confessional insights. "I had very troubled teenage years," Becky continues. "I had various eating disorders [and] very bad depression which I still take medication for now – it's just something I've come to accept. There was definitely a turning point for me in my early 20s where I wanted to start living life again. The band was such a great release."

SO, WHAT HAVE THEY DONE SINCE THAT TURNING POINT?

Not much… just, y'know, touring with Refused, Frank Carter *and* Frank Iero. Hell, they've even survived some recent teething problems that saw founding member/co-vocalist Josh Bannister leave just before Vile Child was released. "We definitely weren't getting on as a unit as much as we had been in the past," reveals Becky. "Josh hit a point where he was thinking about leaving. I'd even considered leaving – which I haven't mentioned before. I was so unhappy. He left on his own back, it was his decision. I think he maybe wasn't comfortable with, not the direction, but it becoming bigger." Having drafted in Hindsights' Billy Hutton to help out, Milk Teeth are finally ready for everything 2016 has in store. "I definitely think it's for the best," adds Becky. "We couldn't be happier."

SO, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THEM NEXT?

Short term: a UK tour supporting Tonight Alive. As for long term? "We haven't put any limitations on where we'd like to take it," says Becky. "If that means it only progresses a bit, then it was a great ride! If that means we're still a band in 10 years, putting out music that people are interested in, then that's the dream!" We suspect they will be. There's a lot more than nostalgia to sink your teeth into here.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF: Nirvana, Pixies, Superheaven.
HEAR: Debut album Vile Child, out now through Hopeless Records.
MORE INFO: facebook.com/milkteethpunx
CHECK OUT: The loungin'-about video for Brain Food, available to watch on YouTube.
DON'T MISS: Milk Teeth and more awesome new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

Milk Teeth (L – R): Chris Webb, Becky Blomfield, Oli Holbrook

K!OMMUNITY

IT'S YOUR PAGE, YOUR LIFE!

HOLDING OUT FOR A IERO

"That time I met Frank Iero in the street, and I still cry about it to this day lmao!" says ***@leatherfrnk****. Who'd have thought meeting Frank would have been that traumatising?!*

KNOX KNOX. WHO'S THERE?

"Bumped into Mikey from Mallory Knox!" says ***@thismindofmjne****. Ah yes, if you look closely, past his Clark Kent-inspired disguise, it is in fact Mikey. Bravo!*

NO MORE TOYS

"My Funko Pop figure of the one and only @OzzyOsbourne!" brags ***@littlebuzby****, getting us wondering what a band of Batman and Poison Ivy fronted by Ozzy would sound like. So metal!*

WINNER!

LINE BOY

"I drew Josh and Tyler Fairly Local-style as that music video is a cinematic masterpiece!" says ***@realspookyjim****. And this, realspookyjim, is an artistic masterpiece that has netted you a pair of tickets to twenty one pilots' sold-out London show at the end of the month. Well done. And no need to 'stay in your lane, boy', go nuts!*

FAN ON FIRE

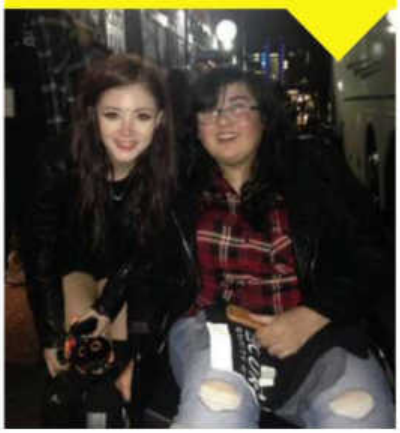
"Lucky enough to get a cuddle from @DanBuryTomorrow at HMV Oxford Street," says ***@AmandaKitten008****. WHAAAAAAAAT?! How did you get him to cuddle you? We've asked, many a time, and there's always an excuse. 'Sorry, Kerrang!, just had a garlic lunch!' etc. etc. Blah Blah. We just want a hug, Dani :(*

WISHFUL GRINNING

Here's ***@sadistic_gh0ul*** *with Champion Grinner Ben Barlow, he of Neck Deep fame. Rumour has it this grin was powered by a superb Travelodge breakfast, complementary with the room, of course. Always puts us in a good mood, too. Mmm, beans. Mmm, hash browns. This? Oh nothing, just magazine saliva…*

INFANITY

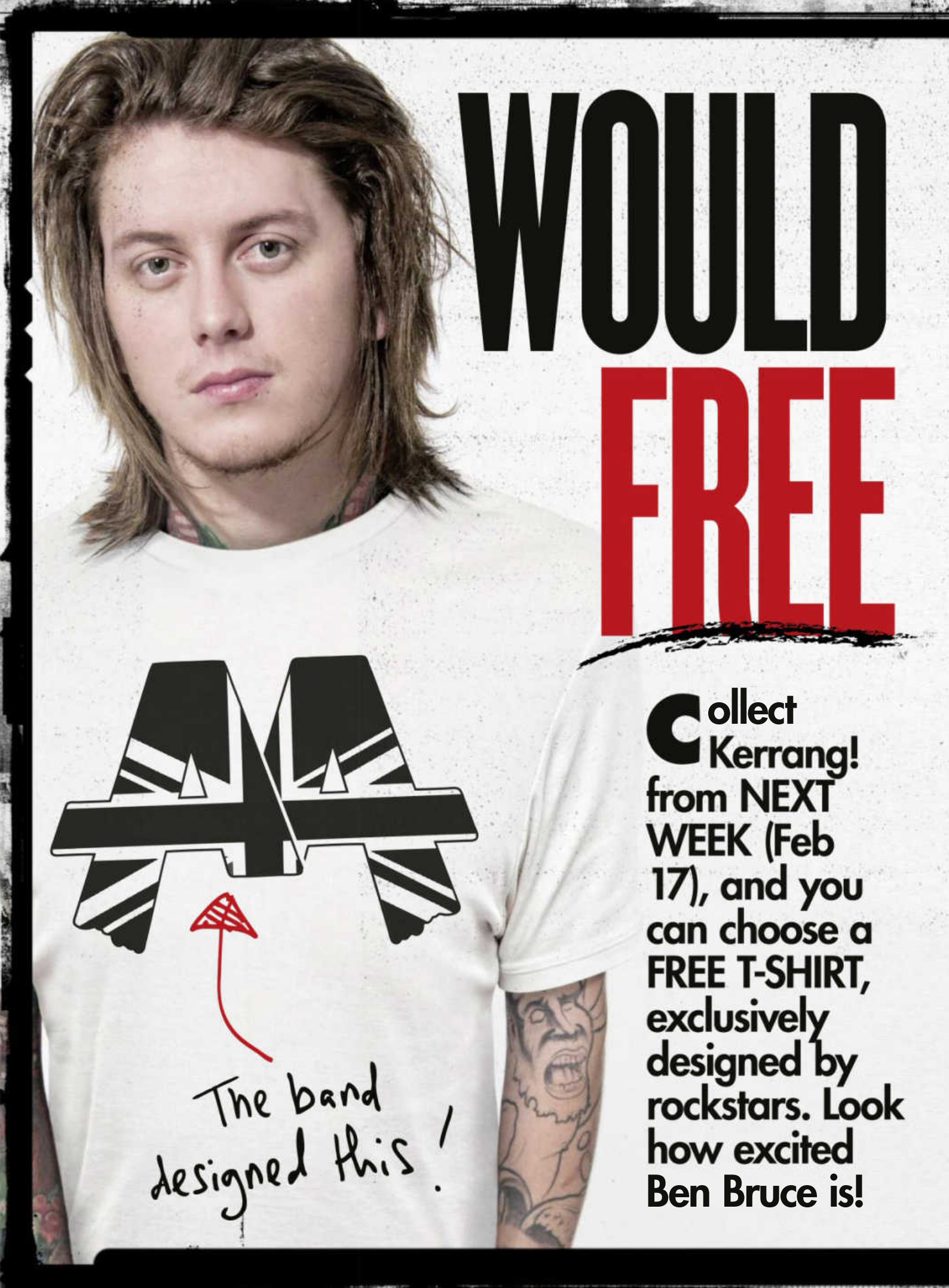
"Met @ChrissyCostanza. She was super-sweet and smashed the tour!" says ***@Nikkiee02****. Hold up, what's that small little fluffy thing Chrissy has in her hand? Need. As. Office. Pet.*



NEXT WEEK

WIN! A SUPER-UNIQUE WOLFMOTHER GUITAR

Bumped into Ashestoangels in a bathroom lately? Spilt coffee over Ash Costello (whoops!)? If you've got proof, we want to see – share your pics with us using #Kommunity. The best will win this out-of-this-world guitar from Wolfmother's space-epic video for Victorious! One of a kind, that, and it shoots lasers. LASERS!



WOULD FREE

Collect Kerrang! from NEXT WEEK (Feb 17), and you can choose a FREE T-SHIRT, exclusively designed by rockstars. Look how excited Ben Bruce is!

YOU LIKE A T-SHIRT?

EXCLUSIVE TO KERRANG!

* Not including Postage & Packaging. 10 tokens over 12 weeks must be collected.

Choose from **Asking Alexandria**, **New Years Day**, **Against The Current** and **Tonight Alive**!

KERRANG! is available every Wednesday! Now with FREE T-shirts! Cheer up, Ben!

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

AND THEY CALL IT PUPPY LOVE

VALENTINE'S DAY IS ALL ABOUT SPENDING TIME WITH THE ONES WE HOLD CLOSEST TO OUR HEART. THANK CUPID, THEN, THAT **ALL TIME LOW** ARE BACK TO KICK OFF THIS EXTRA-ROMANTIC ISSUE – WITH A HELPING PAW FROM SOME FURRY PALS...

WORDS: MATT ALLEN **PHOTOS:** LINDSEY BYRNES

The remake of Stephen King's Cujo saw a surprise casting

It's card-buying season. Valentine's Day is just around the corner; love is the air. In one corner of Baltimore, puppies are even frolicking. But pop-punk trailblazers All Time Low aren't in the mood for a slow dance with their new furry friends-come-terrorisers. It's been nearly a year since their sixth studio album, Future Hearts, slammed hard on the accelerator pedal of a career already locked-in at breakneck velocity. Now, despite the smoochy mood surrounding their forthcoming Back To The Future Hearts tour, the quartet are set for their biggest shows to date: one giant UK jaunt comprising arenas that were previously the playground to the heavyweight likes of Metallica, Muse and Led Zeppelin.

For their frontman, Alex Gaskarth, these shows are a chance to thank fans for yet another year of unwavering love. Twelve months ago, All Time Low – Alex, plus guitarist Jack Barakat, bassist Zack Merrick, and drummer Rian Dawson – played the same venues, but with a safety net: their performances were bolstered as part of a co-headlining set with You Me At Six. This time, with Future Hearts marked as their most successful album so far, they're going solo.

"This is another big step for us," says Alex. "It feels insane. I don't think we ever imagined that we would be at this level, playing that kind of show. There's pressure to show up and put on insane gigs, but we're not sweating the small stuff. The thing about doing that size rooms is that you can go big on production…"

Like Kiss?

"Yeah, we're wearing make-up and huge boots. We have armour now," Alex grins. "No, we're pulling out all the stops and doing things that we can't normally. We've got some tricks and I think it'll be a lot of fun."

Alex and his bandmate Jack are, between today's extended stints of fetch and wrestles with a pooper-scooper, packing their bags for their forthcoming trip. And there's an extra

"JACK AND I BICKER ABOUT DUMB SH*T. BUT WE'RE CLOSER THAN EVER"

ALEX GASKARTH

ROSES? WHERE WE'RE GOING, WE DON'T NEED ROSES...

ALEX GETS DOWN TO THE BUSINESS OF THE **BACK TO THE FUTURE HEARTS** TOUR!

GOOD CHARLOTTE WILL RULE!

"Dude, it's so awesome [to have them supporting]. I love those guys so much. We toured with them one time before and they're great – they took us under their wings and showed us how to really tour. I think they're like our big brothers in a lot of ways."

WE MIGHT GET A COLLABORATION!

"We did a couple of songs together – with Benji and Joel Madden – so there's room for some collabing on tour, for sure! Onstage? I hope so. I'm certainly down. When you're in front of that many people, you have to make it as memorable as possible, and that would be awesome!"

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF '16!

"[Tour openers] Against The Current are super-talented and have their heads in the right place, which is really important for a younger band. It's going to be really cool touring with them and hopefully they can use the tour as a launch pad."

Thankfully, a lifetime of touring with three other dudes meant Alex was well-versed in toilet accidents

buzz about this one, too. One reason could be because they're being backed by legendary punks Good Charlotte (Jack: "Hometown heroes from Maryland"), as well as pop-rock hot-shots Against The Current. Another is that this tour presents a reward for some seriously hard work. Future Hearts, to use the record-label vernacular, shifted big units throughout 2015, climbing to Number One in the UK, and landing in the Number Two spot in America. Some of the raucous new material was premiered during last year's trip around the country, but All Time Low's world has changed dramatically since then. Suddenly they're in the Big Deal category.

"I do think we've become more of a household name," says Jack. "More than anything, people take us seriously because we've been around for so long. I'm not gonna say that we've earned everyone's respect, but you do get a certain amount of respect when you've been around for 12 years. If you're in a band for that long, there's definitely something happening. Luckily, people take note of that stuff."

Not that you can please everyone…

"There's still a million people out there who hate pop-punk," says Alex. "I don't expect everyone to love our band, and love what we're doing, in the same way that I don't love plenty of genres, or plenty of bands. Music's a matter of taste. I don't give a fuck."

All Time Low's forthcoming UK adventure also throws up a peculiar quirk of timing. For the third time in four years, the band will be in the country for Valentine's Day, a period of frantic card-buying, romantic gestures and inevitable bust-ups. "We have a Valentine's complex," laughs Alex. "We feel very romantic when we play in the UK." His audiences often feel the mood, too. Last year, their stage was peppered by a volley of candy hearts from the crowd.

Alex claims to be not so romantic when it comes to the canoodling season, though. "I don't deal well with surprises, but I'm down for an awesome romantic dinner." Meanwhile, Jack seems more in tune with the vibe, especially as All Time Low will be enjoying a rare day off on February 14.

"You know, it's a day of love," he says. "London, and England in general, is a place I love. It's a great spot to have Valentine's Day. Everyone always talks about Paris being a romantic city, but London's romantic, man. Everything's on the water, there are parks and gardens – it's beautiful. The other guys have their girlfriends and their fiancées – I'm the single man in the band, so I'll see what England has to offer…"

Maybe a romantic dinner for the four of you?

"If we're having a dinner for four, I know we're gonna get laid," laughs Jack. "All four of us put out because we don't mess around. We're not teases."

To the outside world, All Time Low's 2003 emergence was imbued with a romantic mood, but of the innocent, teen soap variety. Alex and Jack's friendship reads like a slice of pop-punk fan fiction. When the pair met in eighth grade at Dulaney High, a secondary school in Timonium, Baltimore County, Alex had the guitarist down as "a goof". He wore chains and an antagonistic T-shirt that read, 'Tell Your Girlfriend I Said, 'Thanks!'" All Time Low's frontman-in-waiting had just transferred from a private school where strait-laced dress rules comprised khaki trousers and buttoned shirts. A punk kid like Jack, who rode into class on a skateboard, seemed intimidating.

"This makes me sound so vanilla," laughs Alex, recalling their first meeting. "But I was like, 'Oh my God, who is this dude? He's such a rebel!'"

From Jack's end, though, Alex's arrival at Dulaney brought a whiff of jealousy. The new kid was a novelty, particularly among the girls at school. "There's always a mystery about people who come over from other schools," says Jack. "He was a good-looking dude and all the girls would gravitate towards Alex – this new guy that we didn't know anything about. I didn't take too kindly to that. My first thought was, 'He's a dick.'"

Their mutual indifference didn't take too long to right itself. Alex and Jack began hanging out by the movie theatre in town – a meeting spot for skaters. They got chatting about music, guitars and the bands they both loved. "In the end we were like, 'Let's hang out, man! You play guitar, I play guitar…'" says Alex. "It was one of those dumb things where, all of a sudden, you're going, 'Bring your shitty Squier over and your shitty amp, and let's play blink songs!'"

Interestingly, you won't find any mention of All Time Low on Dulaney's notable alumni list. That honour goes to Gregory R. Wiseman, NASA astronaut; Bob Wheeler, 1500-metre runner in the 1972 Munich Olympics; and opera singer Dawn Kotoski. But 12 years and six albums into their career, the band's career is cruising into high altitudes, a progression that can be pinpointed to the close-knit bromances within the band, most notably between Alex and Jack, who remain best friends to this day. "I'm glad to have him around," says Jack. "He's my brother…"

DO YOU TWO ARGUE LIKE ANY OTHER COUPLE?

ALEX: "For sure, we bicker about dumb shit – the dumb shit that siblings bicker about. Like, 'Dude you wore the same shoes as me… what the fuck, man?!' We get clothes from the same stores, so it's like, 'Oh, man, you showed up wearing the same jacket for the interview today, what the fuck? You have to go change!' 'No, *you* have to go change!' Stuff like that."

WHAT ARE YOUR SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES?

ALEX: "I think we're both pretty similar in that we're pretty laid back. We like to have a good time, but we're very focused on making this band the best it can be. I think we take care of our friends; we're very much a big family – family people. We're people that really care about everyone in our unit and group. But I think we're in different places in our lives. I'm getting married and going off on this whole new adventure in life. Jack is a single man and living it up, so that's the biggest difference. He's a year younger and he's also the youngest of three, so he's always been the baby of the band, if that makes sense. He's going out and he's partying, he's living his life and that's awesome."

JACK: "Me and Alex are different people. We like different types of music – we don't all like the same stuff. Alex is the dude that has had a girlfriend for many years and I'm the single guy. But when it comes down to it, what made us so close, especially in the beginning, was that we both wanted the same thing. That has kept us together."

HAS HAVING GIRLFRIENDS AROUND EVER GOT IN THE WAY OF WHAT THE BAND WANTED TO DO?

JACK: "Honestly, no. Alex and his fiancée have been dating since we were 15, so she's been just as big a part of the band as any of us. She's seen it all. She's been there since the beginning. It's nice to have someone like that to be supportive and see where we've come from. We've been blessed in the sense that girls are never the issue with us."

HOW HAS THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU TWO CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

JACK: "Musically, Alex has taken the role of leader, and that's always been the case since the beginning. When you've been in a band for this long, it's really important everybody knows their role in the band, and is okay with that. That's how you don't fight, or break-up. It's nice that Alex likes being in control of the writing. We trust that he's gonna write the best songs he can, and we think he's a great songwriter."

ALEX: "Me and Jack are still close – I'd say closer than ever. We're as tight as it can get without being actual family. That goes for all of us in the band. I've known Jack the longest, so there's definitely something special there. This is our thing. This is the idea that we had in freshman year of high school."

DO YOU HAVE A TELEPATHIC UNDERSTANDING?

JACK: "Yeah, and it's the same with everyone in the band at this point. We've spent the last 12 years together, so it's like having a roommate: you can tell everything about the other person. You can read their minds and their faces. It doesn't do much for privacy, and you really can't hide anything. There are very few secrets around us."

ALEX: "You can guess when something's up, for sure. It's like having twins, or something. I can sense whenever something's wrong in the universe."

HAVE YOU BEEN THERE FOR THE TOUGH TIMES AS WELL AS THE GOOD?

ALEX: "Yeah, man, we've been through a lot of stuff together. When it gets tough, you hang out for your friends. We've

Jack: forever getting mistaken for Andrex loo roll

become each other's support group, and that can be very valuable. If we all hated each other, that would be even more difficult. To be able to lean on each other and be each other's crutch in tough times is really important for our mental health. And I think it makes the good times that much sweeter."

CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING IN A BAND WITHOUT EACH OTHER?

ALEX: "No! We always joke about who would have the first side-project. Every band has that guy – the one that goes off to start his own band. I know that when someone goes off and does a side-project, either they hate their band or they're not satisfied by the music they're playing, and they want to play something else. We're very lucky in that we're all able to scratch the creative itches that we wanna scratch. We try new things and go off on tangents, but we stay within a realm of the All Time Low name. There hasn't been a moment where I've thought, 'I wanna make metal now.' Or, 'I'm gonna go start a grimecore band!' No-one has even gone to those places, I think because All Time Low has been doing it for us."

JACK: "Without Alex, I'd probably be dead in a gutter somewhere. I don't know what I'd have done, to be honest. I wouldn't be playing music. I wouldn't be where I am today. I'd have had a very different life if him and me hadn't got together back in the day."

This union looks set to hold All Time Low tight – tighter than ever. Beyond this run of UK dates, the four-piece are currently plotting a busy festival season ("We're lining that up," says Alex, "though nothing's been announced yet"). They're also keen on giving Future Hearts one last push.

"We're going out strong," he says. "It's been our biggest record and that's something very special to us. After being a band for this long, it's hard to do. Brendon [Urie] is doing that with Panic! At The Disco. He's in a similar boat. He's been doing it for this many years and suddenly he's having his biggest success [with 2016 album Death Of A Bachelor].

"But I love Future Hearts. I think we made the right album for the time, especially because I felt it bridged a gap. [2012 album] Don't Panic was very much a reset button – a straight-up pop-rock album. But with Future Hearts we experimented with some new sounds and tried some new things."

For now, their immediate future is focused on touring, though Alex has just spent some time in California working on his songwriting. "It's just writing," he explains. "I've said it before: it's a dream of mine to be a writer for other artists, to be a producer. I'm just using some of my downtime to get started on that."

Jack, meanwhile, reckons that a break between projects would not extend far into the distance.

"It's important for us and our fans to do All Time Low music as often as possible," he says. "We're not gonna take a couple of years off. Alex likes having a clean slate [for a new album] and is very positive about that stuff. I tend to be more nervous about it. It's a scary thing. There's no greater feeling than having your album finished and being ready to roll, or listening to it and knowing how good it is. But it's scary when you don't have anything and you could go anywhere."

For now, though, there's little time to plan. All Time Low are capping off their most successful 12 months with the biggest headline shows of their career. It's been a dozen years and a half-dozen albums in the making, but they're finally living up to the potential first revealed with their 2005 debut album, The Party Scene. It's this slow gestation period, reckon Alex and Jack, that's formed the platform for their recent surge.

"We're kinda clueless," says Alex. "We could be playing a sold-out Wembley and we'd be like, 'Don't bands this size do a better rider?' I think that helps, too. We're having fun and we don't focus on it too much, but I guess we appreciate it for what it is. Obviously, it's absolutely insane to us that we're doing what we are right now, but it's not something that we're taking too seriously."

Jack agrees. "Our band keeps us grounded. We rely on each other. We don't want any of us to get too cocky, so we ground ourselves. The reason for that is that we were friends before the band. We weren't four guys thrown in randomly. That makes it a little easier to keep your friends grounded and that's what's held us together all these years."

It's true: sometimes, taking it slow is the best route to happiness. Only fools rush in, after all. This week, All Time Low will be reaping the rewards of a relationship built on solid foundations. And it's a romance set to last.

ALL TIME LOW TOUR THE UK THIS WEEK – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO

"WITHOUT ALEX, I'D PROBABLY BE DEAD IN A GUTTER SOMEWHERE"

JACK BARAKAT

Jack and Alex were forever finding innovative ways to avoid using grotty venue showers

ALL YOU DO IS SMOOTH TALK TALK...

HERE AT K!, WE LOVE **AGAINST THE CURRENT** – SO, IN THE SPIRIT OF VALENTINE'S DAY, WE TOOK **CHRISSY COSTANZA** ON A DATE TO SEE IF SHE COULD FALL FOR US, TOO...

HI, CHRISSY. COULD WE ASK YOU FOR SOME DIRECTIONS?
CHRISSY: "To where?"

TO YOUR HEART...
"That is, without a doubt, the corniest line I have *ever* heard. It's also funny, which means that I *love* it! I guess I'm the worst person for something like this, as I'm so amused by lines like that. Honestly, if someone were brave enough to say that line to my face, then they'd definitely get a bonus point."

We're not great at reading the signs, but we think this has gone well...

I'M TRYING TO REARRANGE THE ALPHABET SO 'U' AND 'I' ARE TOGETHER...
"Oh my God! I wouldn't even know what to say! I'd probably just laugh and stare into the distance and be really uncomfortable that someone had seriously tried a line that awful on me."

YOUR NAME MUST BE MICKEY, BECAUSE YOU'RE SO FINE...
"(*Laughs*) That one is funny! It's unique; I've never heard it before, so, for that reason, I definitely like it! I can't deny that it's super-corny, though."

IS YOUR NAME GOOGLE? BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT EXACTLY WHAT I'M SEARCHING FOR...
"Oh, no no no no, that is just so *horrible*! First of all, search engines are not in any way romantic, and never will be. Plus, it's not funny, witty or cute – so it's no good at all!"

ARE YOU FROM TENNESSEE? BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY TEN-I-SEE...
"That's the most classic pick-up line of all time! I guess you wouldn't actually use that in the UK – you'd have limited opportunities to ask someone if they were from Tennessee. If someone used that line on me, I'd probably roll my eyes and walk away. I'd be *slightly* amused, but mainly because it's such an old favourite."

IT'S HANDY I HAVE MY LIBRARY CARD, BECAUSE I'M TOTALLY CHECKING YOU OUT...
"That is not good at all. I'd say it's not as bad as the Google one, but that's pretty faint praise as that one was the absolute worst!"

ARE YOU A MAGICIAN? 'CAUSE WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, EVERYONE ELSE DISAPPEARS...
"That's so sweet – I love that one! I love cheesy lines, but it's also got that cute factor; it's not like you're going, 'I'm checking you out,' or, 'You're fine.' To be clear: it's *bad* as a line, but it's a little bit cute, which redeems it."

I'M NOT A PHOTOGRAPHER, BUT I CAN TOTALLY PICTURE US TOGETHER...
"Yeah, that's cute like the last one. With some pick-up lines, they can be so bad, they're funny, which can be a good thing. This one definitely goes into that category! They're much nicer than the more presumptuous ones, though, because they're being corny *and* being a douchebag, which means you've got nothing going for you!"

ARE YOU MY APPENDIX? BECAUSE I HAVE A FUNNY FEELING IN MY STOMACH THAT MAKES ME FEEL I SHOULD TAKE YOU OUT...
"*Wow*! I don't even know how to react to that one – that's some next-level shit! That one requires some thought; there's a bit of science there. Maybe you could use that one on a doctor or a surgeon."

DO YOU WORK AT STARBUCKS? BECAUSE I LIKE YOU A LATTE...
"That one has definitely won me back over – that is so cute! It works on several levels; I drink a lot of coffee and I particularly like a latte, so, y'know, it's off to a good start. Plus, it has a pun, which is always good."

MY DOCTOR SAYS I'M LACKING VITAMIN U...
"That's a triple 'no'! My diagnosis is that one is *sooooo* corny, and there is no cure!"

Give it 20 seconds and Chrissy will realise that's not a breadstick

CHRISSY'S DATING TIPS

STUCK FOR IDEAS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY? FOLLOW THE **AGAINST THE CURRENT** SINGER'S ADVICE...

ICE-SKATING
"If it's someone that you're already seeing, then being in sweats and drinking coffee is my idea of a great date. Ice-skating is a good date because most people are bad at it, so it makes for a funny experience!"

A CONCERT
"I realise that, like the cinema, it's not the best thing to go to for a conversation, but you can go to dinner beforehand and get ice cream afterwards. At the show itself, you can both sing along and have that connection."

GO-KARTING
"A little bit of competition can make things fun, so long as you don't get too into it and become too competitive! I'd definitely be at a disadvantage if I were going go-karting, as I'm a *horrible* driver! You can still have fun; it's important not to take yourself too seriously."

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE **PHOTO:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY

INTERVIEW

HAPPY IN HER SKIN

VALENTINE'S DAY MIGHT BE ABOUT SHOWING SOMEONE THAT YOU LOVE THEM, BUT WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT – AS **TONIGHT ALIVE**'S **JENNA McDOUGALL** HAS LEARNED – IS BEING ABLE TO TRULY LOVE *YOURSELF*...

Many people will argue that you must learn to love yourself before anyone else can love you. And as the most romantic day of the year approaches, it's a lesson that resonates strongly with Jenna McDougall.

While the Tonight Alive vocalist politely declines to discuss if anyone would be showing her love this Valentine's Day – "There are just some things I like to keep private," she says – one fact is etched across her every word, laugh and smile. "I do think I've had to learn to love myself, and it's the best gift I've ever given myself," she admits.

"Before, I was always trying to change myself," Jenna reveals. "Questioning why I wasn't as opinionated as other people, and did that mean I'm not educated enough? I constantly had this mind that was comparing itself to other people and the way they dressed. I always wanted to belong. Wherever I went, I treated myself as a bit of a chameleon and I was never just proud of who I was. Even down to body image – I always wanted something else. I would work out and wish for change in certain places."

She turned it around, though, after realising that by constantly trying to change, she *still* wasn't happy, and that she'd have to try something new altogether.

That confidence-boosting 'something new' was at Reading & Leeds Festival in 2014. While in the past Jenna felt she had to craft an inoffensive stage outfit from ripped jeans and an old T-shirt, this time she decided to walk out on that main stage wearing the colourful, eclectic clothes she usually reserves for backstage.

"People said, 'Why are you wearing that stupid black floppy hat?' 'Why are you wearing those ridiculous yellow pants?' And that made me even happier," smiles the singer.

Er, because people thought you looked silly?

"Yeah, totally! For the first time my feelings weren't hurt by somebody else's opinion."

Other things Jenna says helped were taking care of her body, through healthy eating ("removing processed foods and taking meat out of my diet, I feel, tell my body that I love it more and that I care about what it's running on"), Epsom salt baths, glugging green juice, and taking up yoga and Muay Thai boxing.

Another big part of learning to love herself was accepting her previously debilitating eczema.

"Yesterday we did a signing and I was like, 'You know what? My skin's not perfect today, so I'm going to wear a halter neck top and I'm not going to get self-conscious about the fact that the skin on my shoulders and arms is red and itchy. I can't constantly hide myself from the world."

While Jenna says she's at the height of her self-love now, it's been a two-year journey to get here, one reinforced when she started writing new album Limitless, which is released next month.

"Writing the record kind of solidified all of the things I was feeling," Jenna smiles. "It's almost like when you're not sure about something until you say it out loud. And the record counselled me through that."

The making of Tonight Alive's third album began in May 2014. With 14 songs on paper, Jenna and guitarist Whakaio Taahi holed themselves up in a cabin in Smiths Lake, a coastal lagoon in New South Wales, Australia, to record. Having demoed said 14 songs, they came home impressed with their efforts, and presented them to their label.

The label, however, were less impressed, saying the pair had failed to progress from the sound on 2013's The Other Side.

"If The Other Side was a double-disc album, this would have been the second half," says Jenna, who also describes those tracks as her living out her "teenage musical fantasies", drawing inspiration from Senses Fail, Yellowcard and blink-182.

"LEARNING TO LOVE MYSELF IS THE BEST GIFT"

JENNA McDOUGALL

Tonight Alive's five-a-side team – coming soon to an Astroturf near you: (L – R) Whakaio Taahi (guitar), Cam Adler (bass), Jenna McDougall (vocals), Jake Hardy (guitar) and Matt Best (drums)

"For some reason, these 14 songs resembled those bands a lot more than anything we ever did before," Jenna says. "Which is why they were exciting for me, because that was my teenage self finally writing songs like the bands I loved when I was a kid."

But, as Jenna jokes today, those songs sounded like they belonged in 2004, and therefore were more or less scrapped, with only To Be Free and The Greatest surviving the cull.

"It was really disheartening, because there are songs that meant so much to me in those 'Original 14', which is what we call it. And I really would like to develop and re-record them one day. But it was a very positive turning point for the band. Those songs had to be written for Limitless to have been written."

The label's solution to procure a 'New 14' was to send Jenna and Whak out to meet songwriters and producers, all the way from England to LA, to get them in a new creative environment.

"Whakaio and I have a very formulaic way of working together, just because we've been doing it since we were so young," explains Jenna.

They wrote with David Hodges (former Evanescence member, and the man behind Kelly Clarkson's Because Of You) and decided that David Bendeth (Paramore, Papa Roach, All Time Low) was to produce the record.

"David was a big part of helping us discover our direction and our vision for the record, because when he goes into making a record, it's more of a holistic approach," explains Jenna. "He's not just there to record your music.

"Making Limitless was more than just making a record – it was us finding our life purpose as individuals. It wasn't just, 'Let's make a good album that people are gonna like.' That was almost the last priority. It was more about our personal discovery."

David put them through what Jenna describes as a nine-day "boot camp for musicians", where he would be highly critical, without any fear of hurting their feelings. "You can't blame the guy, because it's not personal, it's musical," laughs Jenna. "But it does hit you personally – you are your instrument, and you are your career.

"I think that's something that would tear a lot of bands apart, what we went through in that time."

While penning the lyrics for Limitless, Jenna was in the midst of a spiritual "awakening". It began in the office of an osteopath of sorts. There, after years of suffering pain in her hips and shoulders, she'd lie on his table while he would prod and poke at her muscles, stimulating her nervous system.

"He said, 'I just want to warn you, you're going to become a lot more aware of things than you used to be, and you're going to see things coming that

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTOS:** DAN BOUD

you would never have predicted or pre-empted before,'" recalls Jenna. "And I didn't understand it until it happened."

'It' was the day after treatment, when Jenna would physically "hit rock bottom", which the practitioner put down to her body dealing with past pain. "Your body is literally processing something that could be from two days ago, could be from two years ago or two lifetimes ago," laughs Jenna. "Your body holds onto all kinds of memories of pain."

Pain finally dissolved, Jenna found herself with spiritual superhero-type powers. "I could see situations coming, I could respond better to different behaviours and I could protect myself. I started developing skills and I started developing my intuition."

From there, Jenna began her spiritual journey, expanding her knowledge and awareness of spirituality, and human nature, which, having affected the way she looked at the world, also changed her songwriting.

"There are songs on this album that talk about understanding the needs of our Earth and the way that we're damaging it," she explains. "Which might sound pretentious – and I don't have that intention at all, because I don't think that I'm better than anybody – but I'm starting to experience these feelings and I want to do something about them. And, at this point, songwriting is the only thing I know."

While Jenna was writing songs about the Earth (such as on We Are – the chorus of which sees Mother Earth addressing the human race), other songs literally came *from* the Earth. Jenna got the idea for Waves (a song about the highs and lows of being in a relationship) when swimming in the ocean on a stormy day, before getting back to her car and recording a voice clip of what the song became. The Greatest was also written in the sea, but this time in Maré Island, France, where Jenna walked out into the ocean and looked down to see tropical fish swimming around her feet.

"It was like a dream," she recalls, "and I just got this idea: "*Cause here I am fearless, here I am weightless, here I am unbreakable, here I am the greatest*'. I've never made such certain statements in my life as I have in that song."

That certainty is all thanks to her spiritual awakening, which put Jenna at one with the world, and at one with herself. And the result is an overriding theme of empowerment that runs throughout almost every track on Limitless.

To Be Free is Jenna requesting the universe get off her back, realising things she's done in the past didn't work, and that she has to find a new formula for happiness. Power Of One, meanwhile, is a song full of affirmations, that preaches being true to yourself and not constantly asking for forgiveness. Elsewhere, I Defy talks about escaping manipulative relationships, while the lyrics of Drive declares that it's okay to look like the bad guy if that means standing up for yourself.

Limitless, then, is easily Tonight Alive's most confident work to date.

"It kind of borders on that line between ego and just being self-assured," explains Jenna. "I think I'm always on the good side of that fence and it feels good to stand up for yourself and not be afraid to sound like you've got a big head."

If the frontlady has developed a big head, it might just be because it's fit to burst with all her new-found happiness.

"I think I'm approaching the happiest I've ever been in my life…" she reflects. "For the first time since making the record, I feel like I'm exactly where I'm meant to be in life at this point in time. Like, this is part of the plan and I'm living it and I'm enjoying it. I'm not resisting anything right now. It feels really good."

TONIGHT ALIVE'S LIMITLESS IS RELEASED ON EASY LIFE/SONY RED ON MARCH 4. THE BAND TOUR THE UK NEXT WEEK – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO

Jenna brazenly ignored the 'Wet Paint' sign

"I'M APPROACHING THE HAPPIEST I'VE EVER BEEN"

JENNA McDOUGALL

BE YOUR OWN VALENTINE

◆ JENNA'S GUIDE TO LOVING YOURSELF ◆

SPILL YOUR GUTS ON PAPER!

"Get out a piece of paper and just write for 20 minutes. It doesn't matter what that is: don't reread it, just let your mind vomit and purge your thoughts. You might not even realise the power of the small thoughts that are in the back of your mind until they're gone and you're thinking more clearly. Take the weight off your mind and put it on paper instead, where you're not carrying it any more."

FORGET YOUR PHONE!

"Have a 'phone off' day and get out somewhere, into a natural environment. Take a hike or go to the seaside and just *be*. Whether you're alone or with a friend, turn off your phone and be present. It'll take the pressure off and bring your attention to what is important. 'What can I change? What do I have the power to change? And what do I have the power to let go of?'"

INDULGE YOURSELF!

"Physically showing your body love – including doing your pampering routine that you might not have done for a long time, like a face mask, shaving your legs and painting your nails – might seem really materialistic, but it's a gesture to yourself. Or maybe go for a run or have a yoga or weights session. Whatever it is, just spend some energy, and enjoy the downtime."

EAT YOURSELF HAPPY!

"It doesn't even have to be a *healthy* meal – although that's ideal for your body to feel great afterwards! – but the process of cooking for yourself is so fun. So, just go online and find a recipe that you've never made before, whether it's for dinner or dessert, and just spend a couple of hours in the kitchen preparing something that you know you're going to really enjoy."

SAY 'SOD OFF' TO NEGATIVITY!

"I've been reading this really great book recently that's about your thoughts creating a reality. So, when you think, 'I'm not good enough,' we create that reality for ourselves and we start to believe that and even treat ourselves that way. Spend some time reading about affirmations, and learn how to create your own [positive messages] and repeat them to yourself."

Dear Valentine,

BUY ME THIS STUFF OR YOU'RE *DUMPED*...

XXX

Avoid your own Valentine's tears by drinking these unicorn ones. Yep, they're definitely authentic.
£39.99 Firebox.com

If 'what you love' is being locked in a police cell, then the advice on this Fall Out Boy shirt will work out great for you.
£17 Falloutboy.gomerch.com

Fill this bad-ass Mastodon stein with love potion. Or, y'know, Diet Coke.
£100 Smastodon. backstreetmerch.com

Nothing says 'I love you' like matching iPhone cases. We'd be vomiting if it didn't involve pizza.
£20 Luxylemon.com

Wanna show your guitar strings some affection? Then pluck them all night long with these pics.
£12.50 each Etsy.com

This T-shirt's pretty self-explanatory. Says you really hate Kellin Quinn, right?
£18 Eu.swsstore.net

If your cold, dead heart belongs in the Lands Of Always Winter, this White Walker should appeal.
£8.99 Forbiddenplanet.co.uk

Need something to set the mood at a nice romantic dinner? Then this candle, cast from genuine human remains, should do the trick. Enjoy it while you tuck into your liver, with fava beans and a nice chianti.
£29.99 Firebox.com

What?! We thought metal was *our* Valentine… gonna send it some angry texts now. BRB.
£9.99 Grindstore.com

Proposing this Val's Day? Then do it pop-punk style. Jarrod Alonge would be proud.
£24.99 Firebox.com

There is no love greater than our love for Star Wars, bar maybe the one between R2-D2 and C-3PO.
£11.99 Etsy.com

Show your love for the Lemster with this ring. Also good for making cookies.
£42 Souvenirjewelry.com

The Menzingers know the meaning of true romance: a vicious killer wearing a hockey mask.
£8 Themenzingers.com

Feeling anti-smush? Then here's a pin to buy yourself. Bugger it, buy 10.
£7 Mementomorigoods. bigcartel.com

PHOTO: JEREMY SAFFER

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: ADAM ELMAKIAS

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

PHOTO: LINDSEY BYRNES

PHOTO: JEREMY SAFFER

PHOTO: SARAH LOUISE BENNETT

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

Deryck liked to combine his passion for pop-punk with a deep-rooted love of historical reenactments

SUM KIND OF MONSTER

KERRANG! TOUR 2016

THE **KERRANG! TOUR 2016** HAS BEEN AN ENDLESS TALKING POINT OF EXCITEMENT EVER SINCE IT WAS ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR. BUT THIS WEEK, THE TALKING STOPS, AND THE ACTION BEGINS. HOLD ON TIGHT!

We're not ones to blow our own trumpet, but this year's Kerrang! Tour has shaped into something rather special indeed. From Sum 41 frontman Deryck Whibley's triumphant victory over the alcohol addiction that nearly killed him and the redemption of ex-Gallows hardman Frank Carter, to the emergence of pop-punk-twisters ROAM and the frantic, pure rock'n'roll of Biters… These are four utterly unique bands that encapsulate why it's such an exciting time to be a fan of rock music *right now*. Those lucky enough to have snapped up tickets before the entire tour sold out back in November will be witnessing Sum 41's first proper UK run in six years, as well as their very first tour with guitarist Dave 'Brownsound' Baksh back in the ranks, nearly a decade on from his departure over creative differences. With the tour kicking off this week, we figured we'd sit down with the four frontmen to find out what lies in store for all of us…

THIS YEAR ESPECIALLY, THE K! TOUR FEELS LIKE A MIX YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY GET TO SEE ON THE SAME BILL TOGETHER… IS THAT AS EXCITING A PROSPECT FOR YOU GUYS AS IT IS FOR THE REST OF US?

DERYCK WHIBLEY (SUM 41): "I think it's a really cool line-up! I'm excited to see it myself, so I can imagine it'll be *really* cool for someone watching from the crowd. I've checked out ROAM, I really like their energy; Frank Carter and Biters, too. I think everyone sounds really different and that's exactly why it's going to be a tour to remember. Variety is the spice of life? Sure, it is!"

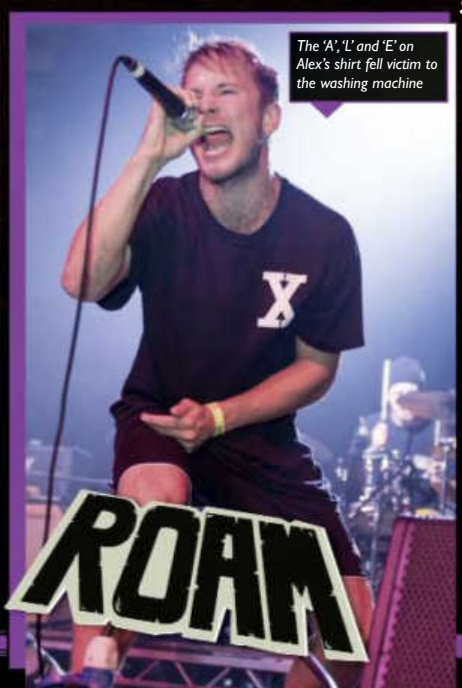
FRANK CARTER: "Yeah, that's how I think, too. I try to put myself on the most mixed bills I can because it's more interesting as the tour goes on. When it's a bunch of bands that play the same music as you, it gets tiring. For me, it's better to see different bands in one night. Plus, I can't resist a shot at trying to steal the Sum 41 crown (*laughs*)."

ALEX COSTELLO (ROAM): "I've never seen Sum 41, and having been a big fan since I was younger, to see you guys for the first time *as well as* support you is mind-blowing! And it's the same with Frank – I haven't seen you play yet, but I've heard plenty of stories about what you get up to onstage!"

TUK SMITH (BITERS): "I totally agree. There are not a lot of bands doing what we're doing right now, so we kinda *have* to love playing mixed bills and with crazy-different types of bands. Like Frank, we're gonna try and win over some of those Sum 41 fans…"

DERYCK, THIS YEAR'S KERRANG! TOUR WILL BE YOUR FIRST PROPER UK RUN IN SIX YEARS. DID YOU MISS US?

DERYCK: "I didn't know it had been that long! I mean, it felt like a while, but wow… We've always loved touring the UK, and my whole family is from there, too. At this point in our career, and everything I've been through in recent years, I feel very lucky. So, now I'm extra excited to come back! It feels like there's more of a passion for music in the UK. And most bands would agree with me on that. The fans are really energetic and get into it… That's all I hear from everyone, and I've experienced it myself."



The 'A', 'L' and 'E' on Alex's shirt fell victim to the washing machine

THOUGH YOU ALL LOOK AND SOUND COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, THERE ARE A LOT OF SHARED INFLUENCES AT PLAY HERE, TOO…

FRANK: "It's really important to remember that. We may be in different bands making different sounds, but that's the beauty of music. It transcends all boundaries; anybody from any walk of life can love the same music as you. No-one wants to go and see the same band 15 times. Having that variety is incredibly important. You *need* to hear new sounds and discover that you love glam rock or pop-punk or hardcore or whatever… It's all gotta be there because it's *all* important."

TUK: "There were a lot of elitists around when I was growing up, where you could only like music from certain years and abide by other

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA **PHOTOS:** IAN COLLINS, CHRIS CASEY, GETTY IMAGES

Tuk got so lost in his own solo, he didn't notice it enter a third day

people's rules. There's so much good music throughout rock, why not pool all the best shit together? People are going to experience all sorts of rock, which is extremely important."

ALEX, WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY YOU LOOK UP TO DERYCK AS ONE OF YOUR BIGGEST POP-PUNK HEROES?

ALEX: "That would definitely be fair to say! When I was growing up, the first record I got was [Sum 41's 2001 debut] All Killer No Filler. I begged my dad to get me it because everyone else at school was raving about it. And, to be honest, I haven't stopped playing it to this day. I have so many memories of that album! When we were starting out, we had a think about what kind of style we were going for and we all agreed that pop-punk was the way to go. So, we started jamming out and Sum 41 has been there from the start to inspire us."

DERYCK: "Thank you! You know, I don't really think of myself being an influence to *anyone*. In all honesty, this is the first time it's popped into my mind in a very long time. I never imagined this would actually happen to us; I didn't figure that people would ever say that about us. It's cool, I guess, but also hard to process."

ALEX: "All the pop-punk bands we play with, and I mean *everyone*, each person has their own views on Green Day or blink-182. But when you say Sum 41, that's the one band where everyone will be like, 'Sick!' And regardless of what their favourite album is, there's just always so much respect there."

DERYCK, ANOTHER HUGELY EXCITING ASPECT OF THE K! TOUR IS THAT IT WILL BE YOUR FIRST WITH DAVE BAKSH BACK IN THE BAND. HOW MUCH DID YOU MISS HIM OVER THE YEARS?

DERYCK: "I missed him on a load of different levels. He's one of my oldest friends; I met him on my very first day at high school. You think about all the experiences you go through at that young age, all the stupid shit you do with your friends when you're a teenager. The people you meet in your mid-20s or 30s are different, because you don't have those early experiences of doing dumb shit together. And on another level, we started playing and learning together at such a young age – it kinda makes one sound by complementing each other. The way I play guitar is so different to him, plus we still have Tom [Thacker] playing guitar in the band, too. So, with the three of us, it's even better. As as a five-piece, this band feels better than ever before."

WERE THERE ANY WRONGS TO RIGHT OR WAS IT SIMPLY A MATTER OF GROWING APART AND RECONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER?

DERYCK: "When Dave left the band, there was no animosity or any fights or anything like that. We just didn't speak for ages… We never crossed paths. He did his thing and I did mine, that was that. We started chatting on the phone a few years ago and became friends again. It was a really natural thing. He still lives up in Toronto where my family are, so I would see him whenever I went back. Eventually we started talking about playing together and how we felt about that. And both of us were like, 'Yeah, it's time!' After a decade, who knows what might happen? I mean, I know it's going to be good, obviously… but he might bring some other element I wasn't not expecting! He might want to play some metal shit, I have no idea (*laughs*)!"

THE KERRANG! TOUR HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING MANY FANS' FIRST-EVER TASTE OF A BIG ROCK SHOW. THAT'S A VERY SPECIAL THING, RIGHT?

DERYCK: "That first concert for people is so important. It's something you'll get asked a question about later in life and you don't want to say something lame and feel like a dumbass! Hopefully this will be a cool thing for everyone attending as their first show."

FRANK: "It definitely is! I remember going to see System Of A Down at the London Astoria when I was 16 years old, and I remember standing there being completely blown away. They shredded my face off! And that stayed with me forever… When I get given the opportunity to take my punk band onto a big stage with big lights and have a *show*, I get the magnifying glass out and blow it up. I want that moment. I want to help kids, because there's a lot of music taking up the airwaves that doesn't deserve to be there. I want to

give punk rock back to the kids in a real way and say, 'You know all this music you listen to? It's false, listen to *this* instead!' I'm going out on a conversion mission. This is a crusade. I wanna show everyone you can still like this kind of music. Rock music is *still* important."

TUK: "There's a lot of fake music out there, like Frank said. Stuff that feels really contrived. We don't play with any backing tracks or auto-tune, so for kids to see a real band sweating and spreading a very powerful, positive message… I just hope I stay on my best behaviour and don't say any bad shit!"

FRANK: "I've made a career out of that, mate. Don't worry about it!"

WHAT ELSE DO YOU GUYS REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST BIG ROCK SHOWS?

DERYCK: "The first concert I ever went to see was The Monkees in 1986 on some reunion tour they did. I was six years old when my mum took me to that gig. I remember that 'Weird Al' Yankovic opened up and there were a lot of people smoking weed. I remember asking my mum what it was!"

TUK: "My first big rock show wasn't really that big. There was a festival in Atlanta called the Beer Olympics, it was a skinhead hardcore thing headlined by Anti-Heros. It was probably the scariest experience of my life. I was 12 years old and watching 500 skinheads beat the shit out of each other in the pit. Nonetheless, I kept going back and ended up in the hardcore scene. I was playing in bands that sounded like Cro-Mags and Negative Approach, and then, after that, *loads* of different styles of music."

ALEX: "My first concert was Gareth Gates, if you can believe that, or even remember him. But if you're talking rock concerts, my first big one was Linkin Park at London's O2 Arena. That was a sick first show for me… once I was over the Gareth Gates bit!"

FINALLY, WHAT IS THE ONE THING EACH OF YOUR BANDS WILL BE BRINGING THAT'S TRULY UNIQUE?

DERYCK: "Well, we're going to be playing *longer*! I don't know, I just go out and play! We tend not to plan anything – crazy jams and covers happen spontaneously, more times than not! Sometimes they don't happen at all, but there's a strong chance we'll be doing *something*…"

ALEX: "We talk a lot onstage. We tend to chat a lot of crap and forget about the fact we're there to play songs! That's probably the one thing that makes us different to all the other bands (*laughs*)!"

TUK: "You can expect a lot of my Southern charm! A lot of the bands that get labelled as rock'n'roll these days sound more like Linkin Park. We want old-school vibes and that's *exactly* what we're going to bring!"

FRANK: "What's unique about us is *me*. I'm not trying to be an arsehole, but I've got a legacy, and a lot of the kids coming to the K! Tour might not know about Gallows, Pure Love or my part in British music. I'm hoping I can open their eyes to that. And we're going to bring ferocity, an incendiary type of violence you can only feel with bones getting smashed into bits. I'm going to walk into thousands of people, make them all sit down and sing them a song about a person I love dying. Failing that, I'll just grab each and every person and shake them until it feels real."

"I'M GONNA GRAB EVERY PERSON AND SHAKE THEM UNTIL IT FEELS REAL"

FRANK CARTER

THE KERRANG! TOUR 2016 KICKS OFF THIS WEEK – SEE THE GIG GUIDE

For live updates from the Kerrang! Tour 2016, stay tuned to ***Kerrang.com***

Frank was delighted to learn that this year's K! Tour would involve an actual stage

THE KERRANG! TOUR 2016: *THE BURNING QUESTIONS!*

OUR FOUR FRONTMEN TACKLE THIS YEAR'S TOUR TALKING POINTS!

WILL SUM 41 BE PLAYING NEW MATERIAL?

Says Deryck Whibley… "We keep thinking about that! I don't know how I feel yet… it's not all finished! So, it is possible, but it's not certain by any means. The sound of it is always so hard to explain, but to me it sounds energetic, fast, heavy, aggressive, with loads of rockin' guitars that sound *big*! At least that's how I hear it. I can't wait to play it live… Everything I write is made with the intention of being performed onstage. It's got to feel rockin'."

CAN THE RATTLESNAKES BARE THEIR FANGS AND UPSTAGE EVERYONE ELSE?

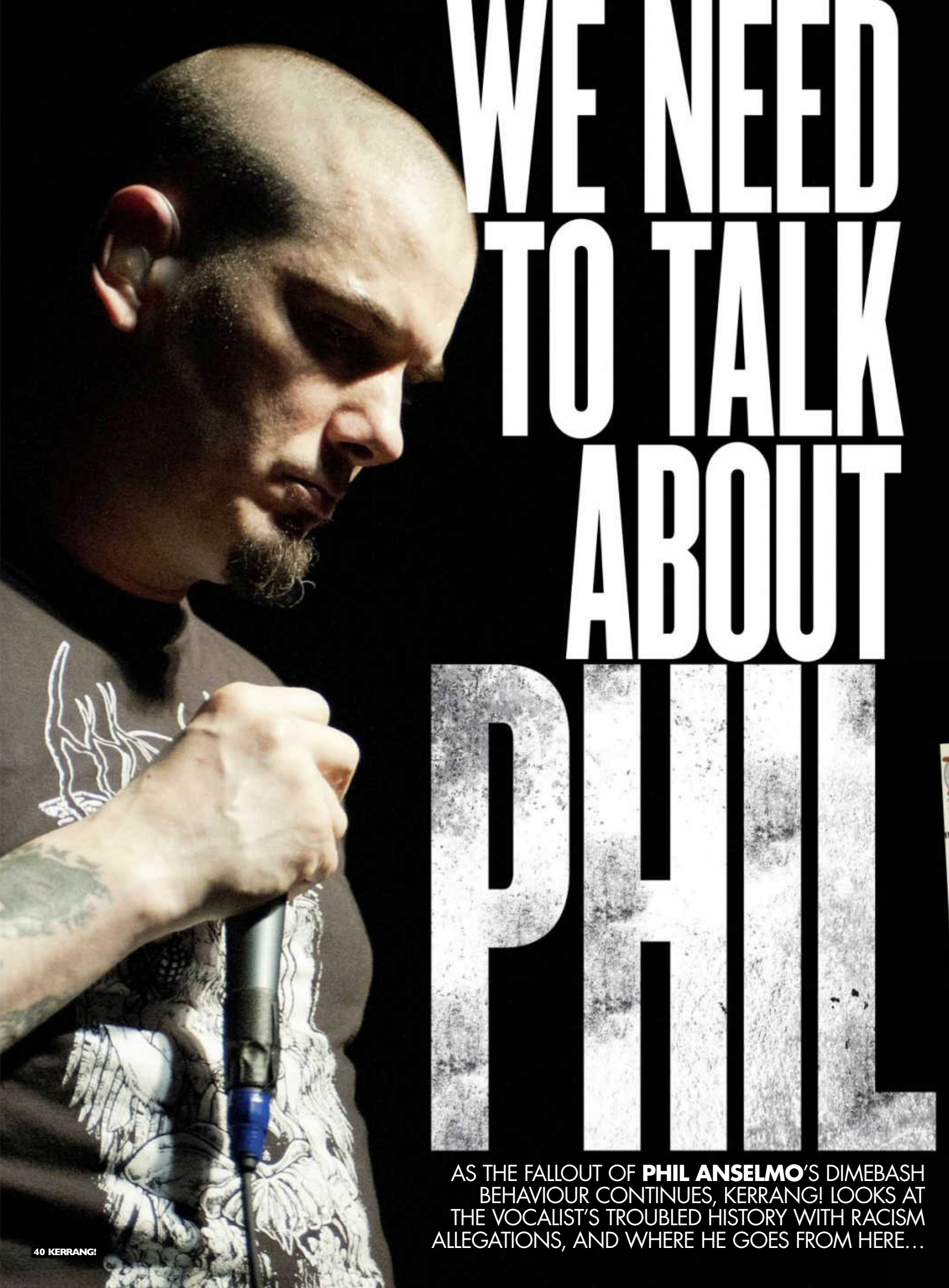
Says Frank Carter… "I think that's what I try to do constantly! The whole point of a support role is to be there as a supporting act, but I've made a career out of specifically trying to upstage headline acts… because that's what they deserve! They should be on their toes, you know what I mean? At no point as a musician should you ever feel like you've reached the top; you should always **be working hard to do better.**"

WHAT IMPACT WILL THE TOUR HAVE ON THE GENRE-BLENDING ROAM?

Says Alex Costello… "The K! Tour is setting us up for a big year! We like venturing out into new sounds, drawing influence from anything. And when you venture out, sometimes things might feel a little too different. But that's where it's good… When you're scared of doing that much of a change, that's when you're doing something *right*. We realised that while making our debut album [this year's Backbone], so now we're thinking about how far out we can go in terms of sounds!"

WILL THE ROAD-DOGS BITERS BE TEACHING US ABOUT ENJOYING THE TOUR LIFE?

Says Tuk Smith… "Hopefully! We're gonna try to hang after our set and meet as many people as possible. Maybe I can sneak some vodka from backstage and hand it out! They'll never forget me for that (*laughs*)! I don't know if this crowd's *ready* to party with us, so we'll have to see! But I like the UK vibe; you guys are much more articulate and reserved. It's very different to where I'm from in the South. The UK has been really accepting of us, so we're gonna interact with everyone we can."



WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT PHIL

AS THE FALLOUT OF **PHIL ANSELMO**'S DIMEBASH BEHAVIOUR CONTINUES, KERRANG! LOOKS AT THE VOCALIST'S TROUBLED HISTORY WITH RACISM ALLEGATIONS, AND WHERE HE GOES FROM HERE…

It should have been a joyous occasion. Rock and metal luminaries – including Dave Grohl, Metallica's Rob Trujillo, Machine Head's Robb Flynn and past and present members of Pantera, Slayer, Stone Sour and more – were all joining forces to honour late Pantera guitarist Darrell 'Dimebag' Abbott and raise money for the Ronnie James Dio Stand Up and Shout Cancer Fund.

Dimebag's long-time girlfriend Rita Haney said of the Dimebash event, which took place on January 22 in California, "I think the thing that embodies this event and entity is unity; bringing everyone together to celebrate the music played and loved by Darrell and to benefit the foundation of a very beloved man, Mr Ronnie James Dio."

As it turned out, unity was most definitely not what the event would be remembered for. At the end of the show, former Pantera frontman Phil Anselmo performed a Nazi salute and screamed the words "White Power" at the crowd – an act that was captured on film by a fan and later posted to YouTube.

The bullish singer initially refused to apologise, posting a comment via his Housecore Records label that said, "Okay, folks, I'll own this one, but dammit, I was joking." He claimed it was an in-joke based on the fact that they'd been drinking white wine backstage and added, "I fucking loathe everyone, and that's that. No apologies from me."

Machine Head frontman Robb Flynn, who also performed at the event, was the first major name to respond. He issued a lengthy video statement in which he labelled Phil a bully and claimed that the Down and former Pantera vocalist told him that he "hated the 'n****r-era' of Machine Head".

It was only when the inevitable online shitstorm materialised that Phil came back with a video statement of his own. In it he said he deserved the heat he was getting, apologised and called what transpired onstage that night "ugly" and "uncalled for".

Since then, a number of musicians have weighed in. Anthrax guitarist Scott Ian wrote on his website, "Hate speech. Racism. Inflammatory rhetoric. All dangerous no matter what the context. I have zero tolerance for any of this and to not speak out against it is as dangerous as the acts themselves. Philip's acts were vile and that should be the focus here, anything else is just noise."

The Jewish guitarist also invited Phil to make a donation to the Simon Wiesenthal Center – named after the late Holocaust survivor and Nazi hunter – who confront anti-Semitism and promote human rights and dignity.

This isn't the first time Phil Anselmo has run into controversy. During a Pantera show in 1995, he launched into a rant that many considered offensive. Referencing rap acts who advocated stopping 'black-on-black' crime, he suggested this was the same as saying "to go out and kill white people" and added, "If I wore a shirt that said 'White Power', I'd be called a bigot. That's reverse discrimination and you should all open your eyes."

In the aftermath of that incident he issued another apology, saying, "On any normal night the speech that I give on the subject of racism goes in the direction of unity." The lengthy missive finished, "And on behalf of the rest of the band (who are mad with me also), I plead for your forgiveness, for this is a mistake I will never make again…"

"I AM REPULSED BY MY ACTIONS. THE SELF-LOATHING I AM GOING THROUGH IS JUSTIFIED"

PHIL ANSELMO

That sign-off seems a little ironic now, yet while such past behaviour is unignorably damning, there have actually been times when Phil Anselmo has called publicly for unity, which, if taken on face value, could be seen to contradict the condemnation of Phil as simply a racist.

'Mass prediction, unification / Breathing life into our lungs / Every creed and every kind / To give us depth for strength', the singer hollered on Pantera's Rise, on their 1992 album, Vulgar Display Of Power.

"Pulling in different directions because of the colour of skin is ridiculous, I feel, and stereotyping and stuff like that," he expanded when asked about the song in an interview.

Other lyrics were far more questionable. Stealing A Page Or Two From Armed & Radical Pagans – by the Anselmo-led band Superjoint Ritual – makes mention of '*the coward Muhammeds*' and '*Jewish elitists*'. As it also rails on Catholics and other Christians, however, it could – if taken in isolation and ignoring those stereotyping adjectives – even lend credence to Phil's claim to be an equal opportunities hater.

After Hurricane Katrina wreaked devastation through his hometown in 2005, Phil ended up living in a hotel surrounded by "all sorts of different people" from New Orleans. "Hail to the natives of New Orleans who returned and dug through rubble and scraps of their entire lives while also braving distraught memories of what once was. Also, hail to those that learned an untapped compassion. That life is so much more precious than anything material," he wrote afterwards.

His relationship with the Confederate flag is also interesting. To many in the U.S., it has connotations of slavery, while others, particularly in the South, see it as a symbol of heritage. Both Pantera and Superjoint Ritual had used the imagery in the past but, following more recent controversy surrounding the flag, Phil said he'd pulled back from those associations.

"It'd be like, 'Would we be flying the Nazi flag?'" he said. "I don't think so, because flags are looked at whether it be nationalism or symbols of something. Truthfully, it's like… I wish fucking everyone would get along."

So, does any of this excuse what the singer did and said at Dimebash?

Of course not. No-one can see into the vocalist's head, but a Nazi salute is a Nazi salute. And, whatever Phil's motivations for performing one and shouting "White Power", it's behaviour that, at the very least, helps to legitimise and promulgate a dangerous and utterly vile mindset.

Phil later posted yet another statement (February 4) on his website, Philanselmo.com, that not only apologised to anyone that took offence, but actually acknowledged that his actions were repulsive.

"My biggest obstacle(s) are the overindulging in the booze and blurting out spiteful, ignorant reductions of the human spirit itself. I will address these issues, head-on," he promised.

"I'm repulsed by my actions, and the self-loathing I'm going through right now is justified by the hurt I've caused."

It is, of course, one thing to issue a statement when you're catching flak and your band and career are in danger because of it, and quite another to change your behaviour and perhaps even your long-term thinking.

In response, Pepper Keenan, Phil's bandmate in metal supergroup Down since 1991, admitted he was "saddened and confused" by the vocalist's actions – deemed "in terribly poor taste and unacceptable" – yet moved to defend a man who "I know has not hate in his heart".

"As a proud New Orleanian, life is about celebrating diversity through music," Pepper added, echoing the thoughts of the entire rock community, "It's about bringing people together, not tearing apart.

"One of the responsibilities and joys, in my opinion, of being an artist or musician is having the ability to help make the world a better place. I accept Phil's apology, and I believe he can."

The onus now falls on Phil's actions to do exactly that.

KERRANG! APPROACHED PHIL ANSELMO FOR AN INTERVIEW, BUT REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS DECLINED THE REQUEST

FALLING DOWN

PHIL'S METAL SUPERGROUP SUFFER SHOW CANCELLATIONS

As more bands have come forward to make their feelings on the incident known, news emerged that Down (pictured right), the stoner metal supergroup fronted by Phil Anselmo, have been removed from two scheduled appearances.

Both the FortaRock festival in Holland, as well as The Civic Theatre in the band's hometown of New Orleans, have taken the decision to cancel upcoming Down performances. New Orleans' Civic Theatre released a statement saying, "We do not tolerate intolerant behavior, and there is no room for that in our venue or our city."

As part of his apology statement last week, the singer acknowledged that his bandmates were suffering because of his actions and says that he has suggested that they "move on without me".

At the time of K! going to print, Down are still due to play this year's Download.

All Apologies: Phil Anselmo faced similar criticism in 1995, and strongly denied allegations of racism via Kerrang!

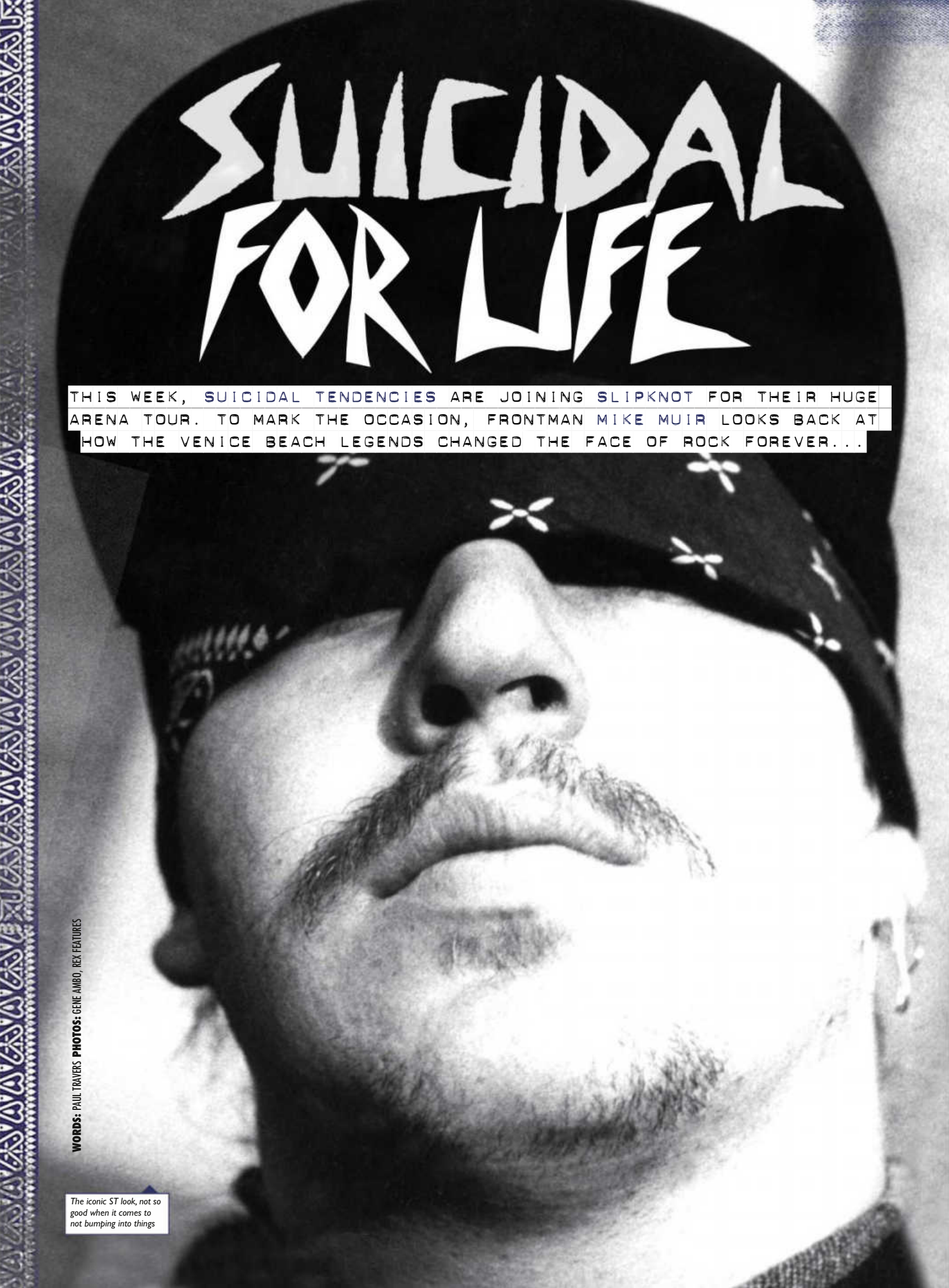
Next week, Kerrang! asks: does rock have a racism problem?

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS PHOTOS: GETTY

SUICIDAL FOR LIFE

THIS WEEK, SUICIDAL TENDENCIES ARE JOINING SLIPKNOT FOR THEIR HUGE ARENA TOUR. TO MARK THE OCCASION, FRONTMAN MIKE MUIR LOOKS BACK AT HOW THE VENICE BEACH LEGENDS CHANGED THE FACE OF ROCK FOREVER...

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTOS:** GENE AMBO, REX FEATURES



The iconic ST look, not so good when it comes to not bumping into things

When Mike Muir, principal songwriter and the only remaining original member of Suicidal Tendencies, wore a younger man's clothes, he was asked by the influential Californian punk rock magazine Flipside which act would he would most like to share a stage with.

His answer was Madonna.

Mike was told he was being ridiculous, and that the Material Girl's vast audience would be genetically predisposed to hate his own then-frankly terrifying band. Immaterial, was the frontman's reply, because how would people know what they thought of Suicidal Tendencies if they'd yet to hear them?

"If someone hasn't heard something," says the 52-year-old today, "then it doesn't exist."

It is this kind of irreverence, this kind of declination to be placed in any kind of pigeonhole, this mischievous humour and this derring-do that has made Suicidal Tendencies one of the most influential muscular rock bands of the latter 20th century. Evidence that the Venice Beach quintet have touched the lives of musicians who rose to conquer can be found in the fact that 'Suicidal', as they are often known, are presently on tour in Europe as special guests to Slipknot – with whom the band share an offstage friendship – appearing in arenas from Leipzig to London.

"When someone has a favourite band, often they rush to the front at the start of the show," says Mike. "When they're watching the band who play before, they kind of look like they're cheating on their girlfriend, or something. When we come out, it's a culture shock. But it's hard to hate someone who looks like they could beat the hell out of you. We're not the prettiest guys."

Over the course of their 34-year career, Suicidal Tendencies have housed in their ranks players such as Metallica's Rob Trujillo and new Avenged Sevenfold drummer Brooks Wackerman, as well as literally dozens of other musicians. But, while stability may not have been the group's calling-card, influence certainly has; what's more, it happened right from the start.

It must be remembered that at the beginning of the '80s, everyone knew their place: metal was metal, played by people with long hair; punk was punk, played by people with short hair; and hip-hop was a nascent musical form barely considered outside of America's inner-cities. The wearing of U.S. sports apparel was vanishingly rare, and cross-pollination with sporting sub-cultures – in Suicidal's case, the world of skateboarding; Mike was the first non-skater to appear on the cover of cultural-bible Thrasher Magazine – was unheard of. Creatively speaking, it was a very ordered and stuffy world indeed.

Suicidal Tendencies helped change all that. The band had a look (bandanas and hand-painted white shirts) and they had 'attitude' – a word that in 1983 was never used as a compliment – a stylish and often humorous way of telling you that they didn't give a damn what anyone thought of them. And this was just as well, because, at first, people *hated* Suicidal Tendencies.

Mike Muir onstage in Chicago in 1985

ST in 1987: (L – R) Louiche Mayorga (bass), Rocky George (guitar), R.J. Herrera (drums) and Mike Muir (vocals)

"We made people upset. We scared them"

MIKE MUIR

"We broke rules and it made people *very* upset," is Mike's recollection. "We weren't trying to be like anyone else and we didn't care, and that really bothered people. We were different; very different. But we weren't *trying* to be different. We were just trying to be ourselves.

"But we scared people."

And then there was the music. Released just 24 hours after Independence Day, and representing the true sound of liberty, the astonishing eponymous debut album from Suicidal Tendencies was by turns alarming, exhilarating, excoriating and hilarious. Always pioneering, often unprecedented, ST were so distant from their contemporaries that Flipside had no qualms in evaluating them as the worst band of 1982. Elsewhere, Mike Muir's assertion that he shot president Ronald Reagan on the breathless I Shot The Devil led to a visit from the U.S. Secret Service and an order to inform the authorities should he ever plan to visit Washington, D.C.. But if such obstacles suggested a future without prospects, this suggestion was wrong.

"At first people didn't appreciate what we were doing," says Mike. "The record got terrible reviews; then a few years later it's being described as a classic. But that's life."

It is justly right and fair that today Suicidal Tendencies is recognised as a landmark album of its kind, in much the same way as Black Flag's Damaged and Slayer's Reign In Blood – with which Suicidal… shares a 28-minute running time – two similarly pivotal records from Los Angeles-based bands released in the 1980s. (Slayer would later record a cover version of the ST track Memories Of Tomorrow, available on the Soundtrack To The Apocalypse compilation.) And while it may have taken time for the Venice Beach quartet's first dozen songs to find an audience of numbers – it would be four full years until Join The Army, the group's more metal-tinged second release – when the group did find momentum, it came with considerable force. Long after Suicidal Tendencies should have died a lonely death, MTV began to air the low-budget video clip for the album's most iconic track, Institutionalized. Just as remarkably, the group then appeared in an episode of the smash 1980s hit TV show Miami Vice. And by the time its successor appeared, this slight album released on a tiny label [Frontier] had sold more than 100,000 copies.

"That was pretty amazing," admits the man who wrote or cowrote each of its dozen songs.

By this point, Suicidal Tendencies were airborne. The group signed to Virgin Records, their first major label. Tracks such as Possessed To Skate, You Can't Bring Me Down and Send Me Your Money would soon thrill audiences in even larger numbers, as their creators toured the world on tours that also featured Slayer and Megadeth and, in 1994, Metallica. Lars Ulrich would describe Mike Muir as being an "underrated genius".

"It took a while, but when things started to happen, they really did happen," says Mike.

When it comes to matters of blazing trails and innovation, do you feel that Suicidal Tendencies receive the credit the band deserves?

Their leader thinks about this, but not for very long.

"What is credit?" he asks. "As my dad says, a statue in the park is something the pigeons shit on. I look at things very simply – I like the Sex Pistols, and as Johnny Rotten said, 'You don't have to be like anyone else. You can do what you want to do and you don't have to worry whether anyone else likes it.' And that's what I tried to do."

And that's what Mike Muir did, with a power and a panache that has resonated for more than 30 years.

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES TOUR THE UK WITH SLIPKNOT THIS WEEK – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO

GETTING INSTITUTIONALIZED

IN 2014, **BODY COUNT** UPDATED ST'S MOST FAMOUS SONG – AND **MIKE MUIR** LOVES IT…

"If you read interviews with [Body Count frontman] Ice-T [*pictured right*], he always goes out of his way to say how the Suicidal story chimes with him. I remember doing Warped Tour in 1999, when Body Count were also on the bill, and almost every day he'd be wearing a Suicidal shirt. [Their cover of Institutionalized] is an homage to the fact that without Suicidal, there wouldn't be a Body Count. And I love the way they took a new approach to the song [updating its lyrics to the modern day]. They didn't just do a copy. They went about it the right way.

"There's too many things that make me angry for me to think about what I'd include [in the song's lyrics] if I were writing the song today. I know there are people that run on anger, but I think people should look to change their own lives before getting angry about other people."

1. METALLICA

Not simply content with writing the very songs that made heavy metal a mainstream form of music, James Hetfield is also responsible for the logo that first appeared on the band's business cards in the '80s, as well as their ninja star and Scary Guy motifs. It was his stamp on a name that drummer Lars Ulrich had stolen from friend Ron Quintana while brainstorming names for his new fanzine, with the Dane pulling the wool over his pal's eyes and recommending he use Metal Mania instead, leaving 'Tallica free for the sticksman's fledgling band. "Lars had the name, I had the logo," said Papa Het in a recent interview. "He was more the business guy, the thinker. I'm much less of a thinker."

2. GUNS N' ROSES

Before Slash fell in love with the guitar, the BMX was the apple of his eye. And before that, as a kid, the young Saul Hudson was a budding artist. At school he would draw big jungle scenes filled with animals, while during visits with his dad following his parents' split, the pair would go to local museums and sketch together. His arty upbringing would serve the future guitarist well come Guns N' Roses' formation in 1985: the band's earliest handmade flyers would be adorned with Slash's sketches, and it was he that created the band's now-iconic classic logo. It was his penmanship that would catch the eye of Geffen Records A&R man Tom Zutaut, who was stopped in his tracks by "the coolest band poster I ever saw" in LA one day. Slash, it is said, still owns the logo's copyright, hence its hibernation until his rejoining of the band earlier this year.

3. JUDAS PRIEST

In keeping with Priest becoming an ever-more shiny, metallic beast through the 1970s, their logo went through several stylistic changes, before winding up at this definitive bit of branding. To fit with the sci-fi-ish themes in the music and the robotic metal head on the album's cover, for 1978's Stained Class, they went for a far more active-looking piece. The angle was originally to complement the trajectory of the bullet on the album's cover, but has since dictated the direction of arty angles on most Priest albums since.

4. WATAIN

Watain mainman Erik Danielsson is not a man who creates something meaningless. Every aspect of Watain and their appearance to the world is a long-considered bit of work, and their sigil is no exception. The three prongs of the trident represent the core members of the band – Erik, guitarist Pelle Forsberg and drummer Håkan Jonsson – and their place at the top of the Watain attack. The fire, meanwhile, is to keep outsiders away from meddling and messing with the band. And the 'Black Metal Militia' slogan? Well, self-explanatory, innit?

5. MOTÖRHEAD

Ex-Motörhead guitarist 'Fast' Eddie Clarke is not wrong about much, but he almost fucked this up spectacularly. Artist Joe Petagno drew the 'Head's iconic War-Pig mascot (named Snaggletooth) as an expression of "being a pissed-off bastard", to which Lemmy suggested adding a helmet and chains. Eddie, though, didn't like it, and voiced the eventually doomed argument against using it. Just imagine if he'd got his way… In fact, the only thing Lem budged on was not putting a swastika on it. Which, incidentally, is the only bad idea that Lemmy ever had.

6. AC/DC

The symbol of the Aussie legends is as iconic as it is regularly ripped-off. It first appeared on the cover of fourth album Let There Be Rock and was born out of a collaboration between Atlantic Records' Creative Art Director Bob Defrin and Designer Gerard Huerta, who would later claim that he never received any royalties or communication from the band after designing the logo they'd use for decades to come. The logo itself took influence from the inscription style of the Gutenberg Bible – the oldest mass-produced printed text – to tie in with the album's godly theme.

GREAT BAND LOGO. AND KILLER LOGO TO MATCH. INVESTIGATES OF A DOZEN IMAGES!

7. KISS

Many words have been exchanged between current Kiss demon Gene Simmons and ex-guitarist Ace Frehley since his departure in 1982 – most of which aren't particularly flattering. One of the original Spaceman's claims is that he was responsible for their classic logo design. Well, at least in *most* territories. The close-resemblance to the Nazi SS insignia (the 'S's were *intended* to look like lightning bolts) resulted in most of the band's German releases and merchandise using a more rounded and modified version of the logo, under national law.

8. BLACK SABBATH

Sabbs' famous angel logo has become the greatest type of symbol – instantly recognisable without the band's name actually appearing anywhere on it. The angel – Henry, as he's been christened – just *is* Black Sabbath. But curiously, he didn't feature on the band's albums until 1978's Never Say Die! – the final '70s one with Ozzy Osbourne, and the least good. He was actually lifted from a festival poster Geezer Butler saw in America before that, and incorporated into a tour shirt on the Technical Ecstasy tour in 1976. Remember: stealing is wrong. Unless you're Geezer Butler.

9. IRON MAIDEN

There's no such thing as an Iron Maiden album without that most distinct of lettering. The logo was devised by band visionary and bassist Steve Harris in the mid-'70s, who allegedly utilised his skills as an architectural draughtsman to a symbol that looked as spiky and impaling as the music they were creating. Some say there may also be some influence from Vic Fair's poster design for the David Bowie-starring 1976 sci-fi flick The Man Who Fell To Earth and typography used by progressive folk artist Gordon Giltrap, though this has never been confirmed by the band.

10. PANTERA

The logo on Pantera's early albums like Power Metal and Projects In The Jungle was rubbish. But when they took a heavier bent on 1990's Cowboys From Hell, they gave it an overhaul. Gone was the cheesy, puffed-up lettering, replaced with a bolder, simpler font for maximum impact. The plan was, according to bassist Rex Brown, to have the logo as huge as possible so their records were more easily zoned in on by record shop-browsers. Which is why Far Beyond Driven, The Great Southern Trendkill and Reinventing The Steel all look like the artwork is fighting for space (and losing) with the band's name.

11. SLAYER

If you're making the most evil music on planet, you might as well have the logo to go with it. Designer Steve Craig's original motifs of a pentagram of swords in a satanic circle has become one of the most recognisable trademarks in *any* genre of music. Slayer's Seasons In The Abyss-era logo courted controversy for the inclusion of a Nazi-like eagle behind the hellish emblem, though the band have always maintained they never subscribed to far-right ideals and were simply expressing an interest in the macabre.

12. SLIPKNOT

When Slipknot made their second album, Iowa, in 2001, things got dark. True, the Des Moines Nine weren't exactly laugh-a-minute before that, but this felt like you were going to come away with bits of you broken. Violent, it was. Goats everywhere. A rawer hate for the world that came from having seen a lot more of it. And with it came a mysterious new icon for the band, designed by Clown: an interlocked nonagram, each spiked point representing one of the band's members. Suddenly, pure evil got even more evil.

WORDS: SAM COARE, NICK RUSKELL, AMIT SHARMA

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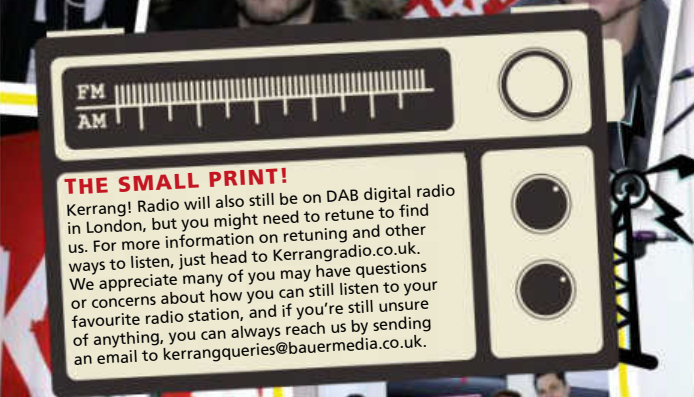

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ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR

AMALIE BRUUN

MYRKUR

THE FIRST LADY OF BLACK METAL IS A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN. WHEN SHE CLOSES HER EYES, SHE SEES TETRIS...

fig.1

MY SECRET TALENT IS...

"Speaking languages, but that depends on your interpretation of 'speaking'. I speak Danish, of course, and Swedish, German and English. Is my German as good as my English? No, but I have German friends and I can more or less hold a conversation with them. I really want to be able to speak as many languages as possible, and speak them well."

fig.2

I HAVE LEARNED A LOT FROM...

"Dogs. I'm sure a lot of people would say that's a stupid statement, but I once had a job where I worked with 30 of them every day, and I was drawn into their whole pack mentality. At the same time, I had to be the pack leader because I had to break up fights and everything. It taught me so much about socialising, and I felt more comfortable with them than with any human group! Nature is very important to me – it feels like I'm trapped when I'm too far from it."

fig.3

ONE THING I'M REALLY AFRAID OF IS...

"Enclosed spaces. I think it stems from two events when I was young. I got trapped in an underground cave in Greece, and later on I got trapped in a tiny room in France, which culminated in my parents having to literally break down the door with an axe. I think I've maybe transferred all my anxieties onto that one phobia, too. I haven't toured on a bus yet, but I'm sure I wouldn't enjoy trying to sleep in one."

"I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH DOGS THAN HUMANS"

● AMALIE BRUUN ●

fig.4

THE WAY I FEEL WHEN I MEET PEOPLE IS...

"A bit uncomfortable. I think people don't like me when I meet them. I was at a festival recently and someone said to me that everyone thinks I'm cold. I'm not, I just don't know you. I'm lucky because, in the last couple of years, I've connected with people with relatable mind-sets, but a lot of the time I'm not so lucky."

fig.5

MY FIRST INSTRUMENT WAS...

"Piano. My father is a musician, so there were always instruments in the house, and my parents didn't need to encourage me I just wanted to play them. When I was five, my mother took me to an open day at a music school. I saw the violin and wouldn't put it down for five hours! It was love at first sight."

fig.6

MY HERO IS...

"My grandmother. She did everything herself, and when she was offered a job, she decided to get an education instead, which was not really an acceptable thing to do at the time. When I was 18 I had a talk with her, and I said to her that I had considered that maybe I should study something and not do music. She just looked at me silently, and gave me this almost hateful look, and said, 'That's the *stupidest* thing I've ever heard. If you don't play music, I'll kill you!' She's very old now, but she's really proud of what I've achieved, and I wouldn't have were it not for her."

fig.7

WHEN I HAVE DOWNTIME I LIKE TO...

"Play Tetris – a lot. I'm fucking good at it, too! I play on the Game Boy, and, to me, it's almost like a Zen practice of the mind. The downside is I can't even close my fucking eyes without seeing those blocks falling down, and there are times where I have to make myself step away for a little while to kind of tone that down! I also don't mute it – I have the song playing all the time because I fucking love it!"

fig.8

BEFORE I DIE, I WANT TO...

"Make a classical album. I've started writing classical pieces – but then they turn into Myrkur songs. That's not a bad thing, though, because I love how those two worlds kind of go together. I would also like to play in the Danish Opera in Copenhagen, that would be a big thing. I think I will, because I basically do everything that I want to. If there's something I want to achieve, I generally do that. I don't sit around waiting for things to just happen."

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

LIVES

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

NECK DEEP

PLUS: STATE CHAMPS, CREEPER, LIGHT YEARS
O2 INSTITUTE, BIRMINGHAM. 01.02.16
KKKK

HOTTER-THAN-THE-SUN WELSH POP-PUNK HEROES KICK OFF THEIR BIGGEST UK TOUR IN GLORIOUSLY CHAOTIC STYLE

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTOS:** TOM MARTIN

IT'S BEEN a long time since the Buzzcocks spliced pop melody and punk power into one glorious sticky mass, but in the intervening decades it's been a format utterly dominated by bands from across the pond. There have been some great British bands, but never one who looked like smashing the commercial monopoly and really breaking big in the same way blink-182 or New Found Glory did. But how things change. With a Top 10 album under their belts, Neck Deep are the UK's most likely to, and as they embark on their biggest headlining tour to date, it's time for Wrexham's finest to prove their mettle.

First, though, the Neck supports. Light Years might be doing biscuits wrong ("I love your Jammy Dodgers – I'm gonna stick some up my arse," announces singer Pat Kennedy, somewhat bizarrely) but their take on pop-punk is spot-on. Creeper have elements of both pop and punk but they can't be pinned down quite so easily. There's a touch of My Chemical Romance to their goth-tinged infectiousness, and if they feel like throwing in a bit of '50s rock'n'roll or a big stadium-rock riff, they're damn well going to.

State Champs bring back the more obvious, formulaic bounce, but they do it supremely well. And as the crowd bounces along and sings back every word to the likes of Secrets and Hard To Please, it feels almost like a double-headliner.

At least until the actual headliners come on.

"We couldn't set a literal fire, but this is almost as good," says Neck Deep frontman Ben Barlow. He's referring to their flame-themed cartoon backdrop, but it's not just the stage set that's on fire tonight. They start at a sprint, and as they lob out melody-bombs like the frantic Losing Teeth and Gold Steps, the place descends into sweat-slicked, good-natured chaos. The energy onstage is matched by the madness on the floor, but it's not just one volley after another. There's a dynamic feel to the set, as A Part Of Me, Ben's solo acoustic rendition of Head To The Ground and an electrified but still restrained December provide a real sense of depth and subtlety.

Can't Kick Up The Roots turns it back up for the finish, channelling small-town ennui into a huge sing-along triumph and bringing things to a knee-trembling conclusion. Wrexham? Tonight, Neck Deep damn near kill 'em.

Even during a gig, one member of Neck Deep still had time to moonlight as a cricket umpire

Well, someone's travel iron didn't make it to Birmingham…

STAR SHOUT!

BEN BARLOW

(NECK DEEP, VOCALS)

SO, HOW WAS THE FIRST NIGHT OF YOUR MASSIVE UK TOUR?

"It was awesome. It was sold out, which is always good! There have been plenty of great moments since we started the band, but with this tour in particular, because we're headlining, it feels like it's because of *us*, if you know what I mean."

YOU'VE GOT A FEW NEW BITS IN THE SET AS WELL NOW…

"Yeah, we wanted the set to have a few ups and downs, and to change the intensity and pace and things like that. For me to come out and do Head To The Ground on my own, it gives everyone else a rest and it's something a little bit different. It's something we haven't done in a long time, as well. If I ever do that song it's usually at an acoustic in-store or something like that, so it was fun to do it live at an actual show. Hopefully it was something cool that people didn't expect."

Arriving onstage out of a helicopter: a bold new idea

State Champs' Neck Deep costumes were uncanny

Creeper's fencing lessons were going well, then

LIVES

Mikey's new bracelet was ridiculously big

STAR SHOUT!

MIKEY CHAPMAN

(MALLORY KNOX, VOCALS)

IS INDEPENDENT VENUE WEEK AN IMPORTANT CAUSE FOR YOU?

"Absolutely, especially since we've played The Craufurd Arms many times. My favourite thing when we were playing smaller shows was to read who else had come through there. It would be bands like Muse that you would never imagine being in the same room with, but at one time they were cutting their teeth in the same places."

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST GIG AT THE CRAUFURD ARMS LIKE?

"It was 2011, I think. I remember because the heating was busted, so it was freezing. We were playing in parkas, and I had steam coming out of my mouth! That was surreal when you're used to sweaty gigs!"

MALLORY KNOX

PLUS: A WORLD AWAY

CRAUFURD ARMS, MILTON KEYNES. 30.01.16

KKKK

METEORIC BRIT-ROCKERS HEAD DOWN THEIR LOCAL BOOZER TO CELEBRATE THE VENUES THAT MADE THEM

WORDS: JAMES MACKINNON **PHOTO:** IAN COLLINS

LOOK AT a map of the area, and Milton Keynes National Bowl stands as an imposingly huge space, where legends worldwide have slayed thousands on its stage. Metallica, Green Day, Foo Fighters, Linkin Park – the list of bands who have trod the Bowl's stage makes it clear: only the biggest and best need apply. However, it's not in places like that where legends are formed. It's in small places like The Craufurd Arms, down the road, where you can see the whites of a crowd's eyes that greatness is born, something Mikey Chapman is keen to emphasise as his crew tear up their old stomping grounds for Independent Venue Week: "Without places like this we would all have very little," he declares mid-set, sweat dripping from his mop. "Let's keep them alive."

It's a point finely illustrated by Milton Keynes natives A World Away. Though it's only their second-ever show, the tight chemistry and impassioned choruses displayed in their emo tunes proves a promising start to their journey. And though Mallory Knox are now used to venues 10 times this size, they're immediately in their element as the electrifying Wake Up whips the crowd into a frenzy. Even with a basic rig, their visceral energy is more than should fit in the room, and at this distance you can see bassist Sam Douglas' mile-wide grin as huge sing-alongs fall like rain on Resuscitate and Getaway.

As a surging Lighthouse closes the evening, with Mikey leaning headfirst into the heaving throng, it's clear Mallory Knox have long outgrown small places like this. But it's bittersweet, transformative moments like this which these walls are built for. And it's what makes them so special.

THE DIRTY NIL

PLUS: WACO

BLACK HEART, LONDON. 21.01.16

KKKK

FRESH BLOOD'S NEWEST STARS MAKE RIOTOUS LIVE UK DEBUT AT EXPLOSIVE LONDON SHOW

SO, YOU read all about what a killer live band The Dirty Nil are in last week's Fresh Blood (K!1605) – but can this chaotic Canadian rock'n'roll mob put the money where their mouths are on UK soil for the first time? In a word: yes. There's a lot resting on tonight, given the fact that Luke Bentham, Dave Nardi and Kyle Fisher have not only not played the UK before, they've never played an overseas show *anywhere*. However, it takes no time for The Dirty Nil to push first-show nerves aside and make their mark. Up first, though, are London foursome Waco – who already look more than comfortable onstage. In-between talk of "bittersweet" British beaches and the only desert in the UK (which is called Dungeness, FYI – thanks for the geography lesson, lads), the openers blast their way through the likes of Agitation with total confidence. It's the perfect vibe for The Dirty Nil to follow. The trio set the tone with the opening two-punch of No Weaknesses and Zombie Eyed, making no fuss over the gravity of the occasion. While the crowd take a while to warm up, the songs from forthcoming debut Higher Power make an instant impact, sounding slick and confident among the chaos. It's just under an hour of loud, noisy fun – and a hugely exciting glimpse at The Dirty Nil's bright future.

EMILY CARTER

REIGNING DAYS

CAVERN, EXETER. 30.01.16

KKKK

TEIGNMOUTH ROCK TRIO (NO, NOT THAT ONE!) AIM HIGH IN A LOW-LYING VENUE

AS ITS NAME suggests, Cavern is a subterranean venue that rather resembles a wine cellar. Not particularly cavernous, by any stretch, though. It's an apt setting for this Reigning Days show, as the local lads have been slowly cultivating some *vintage*-sounding new material, which they're uncorking tonight for the delectation of a sold-out crowd of friends, family and those here to support what's becoming one of the most exciting local scenes in the UK. And from the moment opener Empire unfurls a groove as tight as a gnat's cycling shorts and as persistent as a tax inspector, it's evident Reigning Days sound far too big to be squeezed into places as small as this for long, and we could be at the start of a very exciting ride. A double-header of older material (the moody, 30 Seconds To Mars-ish Changes; Fever's dreamy rush) highlights the earlier steps in their evolution, with singer/guitarist Dan Steer's falsetto on the latter track suggesting its not just a hometown they share with Muse. But it's the added double kick drums on Friendly Fire and the caustic lyrics of All I Wanna Do (a charmingly nasty '*I can't wait to spit in your face*') that suggest musical and thematic heaviness haven't been casualties of their recent creative overhaul. "Get the person next to you and fucking hug them," suggest Dan, taking this love-in up a notch. The band should give themselves a pat on the back at the same time, because while they're not reigning yet, they're certainly making some royally big strides in the right direction.

JAMES HICKIE

THE WINERY DOGS

PLUS: INGLORIOUS

02 FORUM KENTISH TOWN, LONDON. 31.01.16

KKKK

MIKE PORTNOY-LED ULTRA-TALENTED U.S. SUPERGROUP SHOW OFF THEIR CHOPS

THE WINERY Dogs really couldn't have asked for a better start. They may have only formed three and a half years ago, but considering their first London show sold out months in advance, it's been quite the journey already. The musical pedigree shared between the members – ex-Dream Theater drummer Mike Portnoy, ex-UFO's Billy Sheehan on bass – has certainly leant a helping hand, though, in all honesty, they wouldn't be playing venues this size if they didn't have the songs to back it up. Opening up tonight are classic-rock newcomers Inglorious, a band Queen's Brian May likened to "a potent young Deep Purple". Which, in fairness, isn't that far from the truth. The headliners may only have half the number of musicians onstage, but they sound more than twice as unstoppable. Stood within the smouldering epicentre of their technical ecstasy is Richie Kotzen – a man who seems able do it *all* without batting an eyelid. Whether it be the soulful tenor vocals heard on How Long, the jaw-dropping fretboard acrobatics of Oblivion (using no pick, just his fingers) or even jumping behind the organ for Think It Over, the frontman makes it all look easy and barely breaks a sweat. There's a lot of jealousy in the room. The loudest cheers of the night come when Mike Portnoy dedicates their cover of David Bowie hit Moonage Daydream to the Starman himself. Yet another packed house for the supergroup that can seemingly do no wrong.

AMIT SHARMA

BLACK STONE CHERRY

PLUS: SHINEDOWN, HALESTORM

MOTORPOINT ARENA, NOTTINGHAM. 29.01.16

KKK

MEGA-BAND PACKAGE GIVES NOTTS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

WORDS: STEVE BEEBEE **PHOTO:** ANDY GALLAGHER

RATHER THAN taking time out before new album Kentucky is released in April, Black Stone Cherry have brought the multi-band Carnival Of Madness tour to the UK for the first time. Tonight, this refreshingly straightforward band re-step up to arena-level with the same grateful bonhomie they've always displayed.

Halestorm make the most of their short stage time with a 'best of'-type set that gives us far too little time with Lzzy Hale's huge voice. Shinedown then take it up a few gears. Second Chance is the night's first front-to-back sing-along, and frontman Brent Smith transforms this huge crowd into a personal army. Next time Shinedown play this arena, it'll be as headliners.

For now, Black Stone Cherry are more than worth that billing, a constantly evolving setlist reflecting the quality at their disposal. It has nothing to do with stage sets or pyro – it's all right there in songs like Change and Soulcreek. You look at frontman Chris Robertson and you don't see a rockstar – you see a guy made famous only through his talent. And it's this buddy quality that's just the cherry atop his band's rock cake.

Chris Robertson made sure he never had an embarrassing hat mix-up with Fred Durst

STAR SHOUT!

CHRIS ROBERTSON

(BLACK STONE CHERRY, VOCALS/GUITAR)

HOW WAS TONIGHT FOR YOU?

"Absolutely amazing! I remember first playing the basement at Nottingham Rock City, then being upstairs at that venue. To now be able to play with some of our best friends at the Motorpoint Arena was an absolute blast!"

THE CARNIVAL OF MADNESS TOUR WAS HUGE IN AMERICA – HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BRINGING IT OVER TO THE UK?

"We were overwhelmed to be asked to bring Carnival to the UK! And to bring bands we've toured alongside and opened for in the States with us is awesome. It's nice to finally be able to introduce our fanbase to our friends that they might not be as familiar with as they are with us. We're all having a great time together."

ABBATH

PLUS: PRIMORDIAL

02 FORUM KENTISH TOWN, LONDON. 23.01.16

KK

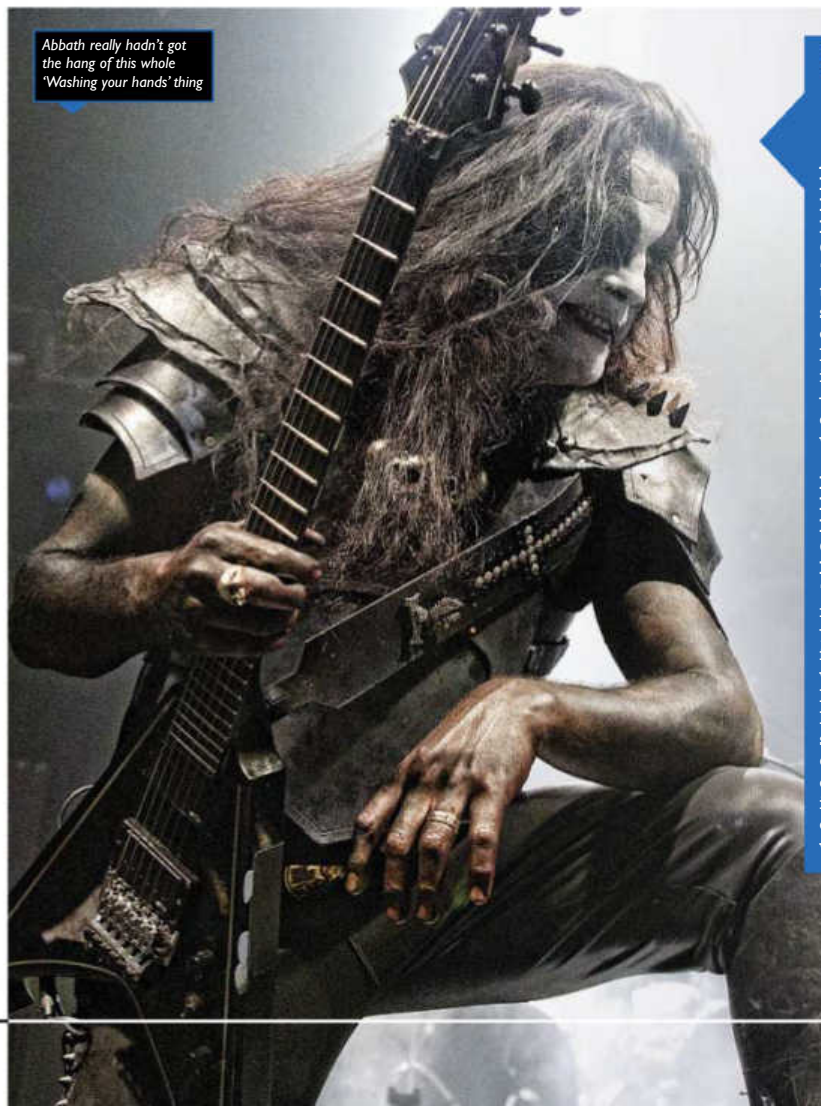
BLACK METAL'S LORD OF WINTER MELTS AT DEBUT SOLO GIG

IF BLACK metal ever had a figure who's a proper rockstar and guitar hero, it's Abbath. As leader of ice-obsessed Norwegian legends Immortal, he cut a figure closer to a black metal Gene Simmons in his make-up, and played with the fury and swagger of Lemmy. Now solo, Abbath is here tonight to launch his awesome self-titled debut album. Sadly, it turns out you might have been better off at home with the CD.

Before that, though, Ireland's Primordial are simply too good to fail. In AA Nemtheanga, they have a frontman with a voice big enough to match his fists and personality, and he leads his band through a set of hard-hitting Celtic metal like a make-up-streaked warrior heading to battle.

Which is what Abbath does, as well. Foot on the monitor, covered in corpsepaint, gurning at the front rows – he's exactly as you want him to be. Except you can hardly make out a note of what's being played, thanks to an appalling sound that reduces what should be epic, frosty blizzards of riffs into a total whiteout. To War!, Ashes Of The Damned and a cover of Immortal's Tyrants end up robbed of much of their power. A shame, as the album Abbath's launching tonight proves why he's one of the kings of black metal.

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES



Abbath really hadn't got the hang of this whole 'Washing your hands' thing

STAR SHOUT!

ABBATH

AFTER SO LONG IN IMMORTAL, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GOING SOLO?

"I never actually thought about going solo; I never thought of myself as a solo band. But that's what it's become. Abbath – it's my name, my character, and really what I want in a band"

DOES ABBATH REPRESENT A DIFFERENT SIDE OF YOU THAN IMMORTAL DID?

"Not really. I feel it's a natural development, y'know, and I'm very fortunate to play with what I feel is the best band of musicians I could. Things sometimes happen different that you expect – everything is controlled chaos, chaos in control, that's what it is!"

REVIEWS

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

ANTHRAX

FOR ALL KINGS *(NUCLEAR BLAST)*

KKKK

NEW YORK BRUISERS RETURN WITH 11TH STUDIO ALBUM

BACK IN the mid-'80s, everyone was in such a rush. Back then, Britain had been hastily colonised by a collective of feral American acts – 'The Big Four' as they were yet to be called – metal bands of a heavier, faster, nastier hue who in short order were filling large halls with music that was electrified in its urgency. Megadeth twitched like a rattlesnake. Slayer barely reached the minute-mark of one song before it clattered to a close in order to make way for another. With the song Master Of Puppets, even Metallica made an eight-minute track judder and jerk like a rusty old roller coaster in its final season before being decommissioned.

Always the junior partners in this cacophonous quartet, Anthrax did much the same. They may have had a more gifted singer than their three Californian counterparts – with Joey Belladonna doing a good deal more than merely yelling in key – but a song such as 1987's I Am The Law still packed five minutes' worth of riffs into a three-minute frame. With this, Anthrax conformed to the tenor of the times: everything sounded like something was gonna blow.

In 2016, Slayer and Megadeth are essentially the same bands they always were, and even Metallica have returned to the same agitated pastures from whence they came. But with For All Kings, Anthrax's first album for five years, and only their third release this century, the New Yorkers continue to utilise surprising new tricks. The album's first track proper, You Gotta Believe, is a seething, but at first not surprising, cut of mid-paced metal from men whose abilities remain sharp. But then, at barely the halfway point, the song decides to duck into the kind of groove one might expect from, say, Queens Of The Stone Age, or even Pearl Jam. This is a refreshing change; one of For All Kings' most enduring qualities is its apparent lack of concern as to what does and what does not constitute 'metal'.

Anthrax do not always write great songs, and, in truth, this 13-track set could use two or three more truly classic cuts. That said, songs such as Zero Tolerance and Monster At The End are as good as any to which the group have placed their name. Throughout, Anthrax have much to recommend them, not least Joey Belladonna's pliable and powerful voice, itself an instrument; and most of all, Scott Ian's inventive and always forensic rhythm guitar work, a thoughtful addition to the armoury, and one that consistently affords the album's arrangements an inventive and original edge.

After 35 years, Anthrax remain standing. What's more, they deserve to be.

DOWNLOAD: Monster At The End, Zero Tolerance, Breathing Lightning.

FOR FANS OF: Metallica, Megadeth.

IAN WINWOOD

"THIS IS HOW ANTHRAX SHOULD SOUND..."

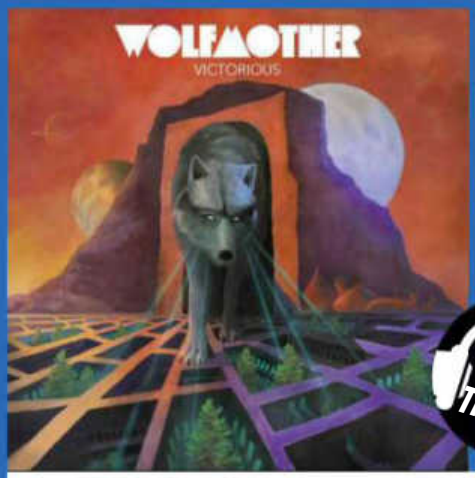
SCOTT IAN

THE INSIDER
SCOTT IAN
(GUITAR)

SO, THIS NEW ANTHRAX ALBUM'S BEEN A WHILE. WHY NOW?
"Because the time felt right. It's weird, but we can just kind of tell when it's time to make another record. Me, I can kind of feel the songs coming together and then it's just time to go. It's a very organic process."

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS ANTHRAX'S DEFINING SOUND?
"I remember when I heard Joey's [Belladonna] voice on [1985 album] Spreading The Disease, and I just immediately thought, 'That's how Anthrax should sound – that's it.' And when I hear him on the new record, I think the same thing. There's just something about the way it all fits together that works. It's not one style of riff that makes us, it's the way we sound *together*."

IS IT NICE TO BE ONE OF THE ELDER STATESMEN OF AMERICAN METAL?
"Yes it is. And I think people forget that we are. Before us and Metallica and Slayer and all those guys, there really was no tradition of American metal. There was hard rock and all that stuff, but not metal like there was in the UK, for example. We were among the first bands in America to start playing metal, and I'm very proud of that."



TRACK BY TRACK

WOLFMOTHER
VICTORIOUS *(UNIVERSAL)*

KKKK

GRAMMY-WINNING CLASSIC ROCKERS JOIN THE RETRO-ROCK DOTS TO CREATE PRETTY AWESOME PICTURE

1 *THE LOVE THAT YOU GIVE*
Guitars! Drums! A chance to play 'spot the Led Zeppelin riff'! Yes, it's a fourth album from Aussie rockers Wolfmother. Yeah, it's a 40-year-old formula, but this angry bull of an opener is still an absolute ripper.

2 *VICTORIOUS*
If fiery expulsions of classic rock and metal are what tickle your fancy, the title-track will singe your eyebrows. It's got space-tastic lyrics and video, too.

3 *BARONESS*
This tale of love between a peasant and a posh lady crawls around on its belly amid tribal drums and fuzzy guitars, before hitting a memorable chorus.

4 *PRETTY PEGGY*
'*Can I have you just for one dance?*' purrs frontman Andrew Stockdale in this romantic acoustic shuffle, tailor-made for Valentine's Day. A groovily welcome change of pace.

5 *CITY LIGHTS*
After that sultry diversion, it's back to the business of heavy rock, and business is… about average on this bit of bar-rock filler.

6 *THE SIMPLE LIFE*
Nothing average here. It's like AC/DC got hold of Sabbath's bag of riffs and sped them up. Add perhaps the album's best hook, and you've got a nugget of retro-rock gold.

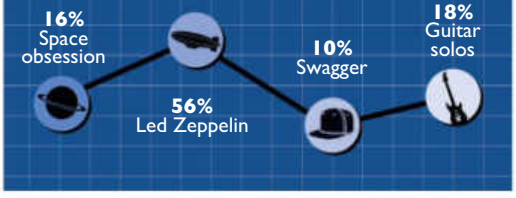
7 *BEST OF A BAD SITUATION*
Andrew pretty much *is* Wolfmother these days, and he plays everything on Victorious except the drums. This one's what your gran would call 'a proper tune'.

8 *GYPSY CARAVAN*
'*Won't you take me to the gypsy caravan?*' Andrew's clearly lost the keys to his hotel room and is getting desperate for somewhere to stay tonight.

9 *HAPPY FACE*
Wolfmother abandon any pretence of originality here, but the mesmeric chorus adds a dreamlike psychedelic sheen.

10 *EYE OF THE BEHOLDER*
Andrew's voice hits such highs in this grand finale that British astronaut Tim Peake can probably hear it in space. It's a fine end to an album that's easily good enough to keep Wolfmother in orbit.

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF...



WORDS: STEVE BEEBEE

TOOTHGRINDER

NOCTURNAL MASQUERADE *(SPINEFARM)*

KKK

ULTRA-TALENTED NEW JERSEY HEAVYISTS SINK THEIR TEETH DEEP INTO TECH METAL

TOOTHGRINDER ARE a band who sound like they spend hours poring over the very base elements of heaviness, refining and distilling until it's surgically sharp. Nocturnal Masquerade is not the ragged, colouring-over-the-lines carpet-bombing of looser metal bands; everything here is taut, ninja-accurate, everything designed to detonate just-so for optimum damage. It's got a lot more gumption to it than a lot of stuff on the more boring, staid, fret-wanking end of the flashy-music scale, but there's only a couple of moments that'll make you want to properly lose your shit – although they're dangerously close to perfecting the formula. Next time around, Toothgrinder could knock your teeth so far down your throat you'll be sticking a brush up your arse to clean them.

DOWNLOAD: The House (That Fear Built).
FOR FANS OF: Bury Tomorrow, SikTh.

NICK RUSKELL

SILVER SNAKES

SABOTEUR *(EVIL INK/PELAGIC)*

KKKK

ARTISTIC AMERICAN ALT.ROCKERS LURE YOU INTO THEIR DARK WORLD

WARNING: YOU'RE gonna need an attention span here, plus an open mind. If you can tick those boxes, you're probably buoyant enough to swim in Silver Snakes' choppy waters. Signed in the U.S. to Claudio Sanchez' Evil Ink label, there's touches of the Coheed And Cambria frontman's genre-flipping wizardry in Devotion and Dresden. Elsewhere, icy walls of guitar clash with electronics and purring vocals build to despairing roars. Think of Lonely The Brave's picture-perfect sadness mixed up with Killing Joke's apocalyptic volume. Just when you think it's not possible, Silver Snakes pile on more layers. Red Wolf climaxes in angry pokes of guitar, while Glass is one of the few tracks equipped with an obvious hook – and, like most of this album, it's an absolute killer.

DOWNLOAD: Glass.
FOR FANS OF: Deftones, No Devotion.

STEVE BEEBEE

ROTTING CHRIST

RITUALS *(SEASON OF MIST)*

KKK

GREEK BLACK METALLERS KEEP THE BLACK FLAME BURNING ON 13TH ALBUM

ALTHOUGH YOUR mind probably heads towards the icy mountains and forests of Scandinavia when you think of black metal, the red-blooded Mediterranean heat of Greece is just as effective a backdrop. Sort of makes you imagine musty old tombs, choking incense and wild-eyed priests decked out in thick cassocks even in the hottest of suns, doesn't it? Athenian diabolists Rotting Christ's new one ticks all those boxes, living up to its shadowy title with ease. Opener In Nomine Dei Nostri is a blast of speed, but after that, they settle into something more mysterious. The doom of Ze Nigmar burns slowly, while Apage Satana features suitably ritualistic chanting, before For A Voice Like Thunder powers along in glorious fashion, an appropriately thunderous metal hymn that cuts through the darkness perfectly. Proof that, even after 29 years at Hell's coalface, Rotting Christ can still cook up a potent, magical brew.

DOWNLOAD: For A Voice Like Thunder, In Nomine Dei Nostri.
FOR FANS OF: Watain, Behemoth.

NICK RUSKELL

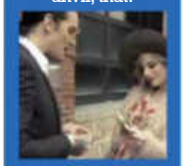
LYRIC OF THE WEEK

'Look what you started, made you a target / Going in on all of you dickheads, regardless'. You don't get a lot of 'dickhead' in lyrics these days. Just another reason to love TRC's storming comeback single.

BAND: TRC
SONG: Take It
ALBUM: TBC

SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

Canuck metallers Anvil have an anvil on their new album, Anvil Is Anvil. But it's a very vain anvil, checking himself out in his mirror. Perhaps Anvil are making a comment on anvil greed and self-obsession. But, if you were an anvil, and you looked like that, wouldn't you fall in love with yourself? Good-looking anvil, that.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

1975, BITERS

We're well up for seeing Biters on the Kerrang! Tour. They're just one of the coolest rock'n'roll bands we've seen for ages. And then there's this new video, which looks like a Tarantino movie set in East London. Nobody gets bitten, though…

NEVERMEN

NEVERMEN *(LEX/IPECAC)*

KKKK

OH LOOK, MIKE PATTON AND FRIENDS UNLEASH SOME LEFT-FIELD MAGIC

IT'S HARD to think of many 'serious artists' who once took a shit in a hair-dryer or drank piss out of a shoe, but Faith No More frontman Mike Patton certainly fits that description. Nevermen is his latest side-project/supergroup/non-Faith No More walk on the wild side, a collaboration with motormouth underground rapper Adam 'Doseone' Drucker and Tunde Adebimpe, vocalist of New York art-rockers TV On The Radio. As you'd probably expect from an album that was recorded in its members' spare time over several years, it feels pieced-together, but not in a bad way. It's a 10-track, 40-minute audio collage, with skittering beats doing battle with swollen, uplifting melodies as Mike, Doseone and Tunde each weave their way through the mix. There are no sing-along choruses, no hooks and only a few buzzsaw guitar lines, so Faith No More purists may not be interested. But, like Patton's day job, Nevermen succeed in making the world a much weirder and more interesting place.

DOWNLOAD: Tough Towns, Mr. Mistake.
FOR FANS OF: Faith No More, Puscifer, At The Drive-In.

ALISTAIR LAWRENCE

HIGH HOPES

SIGHTS & SOUNDS *(VICTORY)*

KKKK

READING MELODIC HARDCORE CREW MIX BIG BRAINS WITH LOTS OF BRAWN

WHEN AN album starts with a quotation from astronomer Carl Sagan about the significance of Earth in the vast cosmos, you know you're dealing with a band who are concerned with a bit more than merely 'opening shit up'. That's not to say that Sights & Sounds lacks the visceral gut-punch required to kick-start your average festival pit. There's a lot of latent power lurking within these songs, with harsh vocals, pounding rhythms and the odd crunching breakdown, but they're all balanced by the band's subtler side. It's not so much a quiet-loud dynamic as a loud-slightly-less-loud one, but the towering waves of melodic guitar and inventive songwriting flourishes make this a multidimensional trip. Proof that musical brains can be just as powerful as musical muscles.

DOWNLOAD: Vanguard, Manipulator.
FOR FANS OF: Misery Signals, Your Demise.

PAUL TRAVERS

HOLY GRAIL

TIMES OF PRIDE AND PERIL *(PROSTHETIC)*

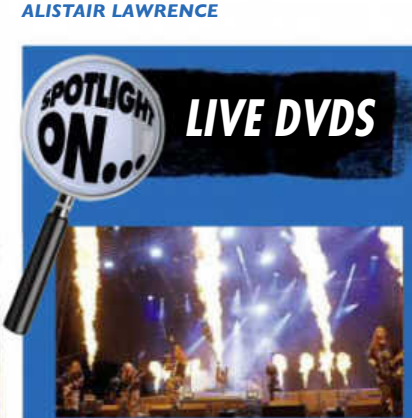
KK

LA METAL DEVOTEES SADLY FALL SHORT ON THE 'BITE TO MATCH BARK' FRONT

THERE IS no questioning Holy Grail's dedication to the metal cause. You want to imagine them on horseback wearing steel gauntlets, you really do. Night of beers and Judas Priest vinyl? They're your men. Unfortunately, their own turn, while admirably titanium-hearted, just lacks something that turns their dedication into greatness. If they just belted it a bit more, this would be a banging heavy metal party. What we actually get is a wetter version of the classic sounds of Maiden, Angel Witch and Scorpions, bands who fused melody and power to extraordinary effect. It's a shame, because Holy Grail have plenty of pride in their metal, they just need to smash it out a bit more next time.

DOWNLOAD: Sudden Death.
FOR FANS OF: Dio, Blind Guardian.

NICK RUSKELL



LIVE DVDS

ARE YOU watching the new series of The X-Files? Why the fuck not? Idiot. Get catching up now. We good? Cool. But now… Now you're left with a televisual void to fill before the next episode airs. What to watch? How about **DANKO JONES – LIVE AT WACKEN (KKK)**? It is, unsurprisingly, a live DVD of the Canadian guitar hero playing at Germany's massive Wacken Open Air festival (who'd have guessed from the cryptic title, right?), and it sees Mr Jones having a whale of a time playing his rock'n'roll bashment to a bunch of sunburnt gumbies.

ON THE STEREO

1 ENTER SHIKARI – TORN APART
Would Shikari work without the electronics? Listen to this unplugged number – the answer is: fuck yes.

2 LONELY THE BRAVE – BLACK MIRE
Yes! It's the first peep at the new LTB album. God it's good, and they're even more feels-packed than they were before.

3 FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS – REGRET
If you're going to tempt fate with a song called Regret, it better be good. Oh look, it is! Well done, lads.

4 BLACK PEAKS – SAVIOUR
Another slice of big, emotional alt.heaviness from the Brit brilliant-ists.

5 TONIGHT ALIVE – DRIVE
'Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah! No, no, no, no!' Make up your mind, Jenna – you driving or not?

WORLD BE FREE

THE ANTI-CIRCLE *(REVELATION)*

KKK

'90S VETERANS GO BACK TO THE OLD SCHOOL FOR HARDCORE SUPERGROUP

DESPITE HAVING drummed for everyone from Glassjaw to Limp Bizkit, Sammy Siegler is perhaps best known for powering several seminal New York hardcore acts (Gorilla Biscuits, Youth Of Today) during his mid-teens. Now his frenetic style galvanises World Be Free, an East Coast-West Coast supergroup who sound like they'll never run out of hoodies or things to shout about. Frontman Scott Vogel (also of LA bruisers Terror) ploughs his way through being angry, being disappointed and trying to stay positive like an intimidating guidance counsellor, backed by riffs that scratch like claws and Sammy's beats to quicken the pulse. Hardcore's family tree just sprouted a sturdy new branch.

DOWNLOAD: Shake The Ghost.
FOR FANS OF: Terror, Sick Of It All.
ALISTAIR LAWRENCE

SPREADING THE DISEASE

VIRAL *(SELF RELEASED)*

KKKK

KENT METALLERS ANNOUNCE THEMSELVES WITH FITTINGLY-CONTAGIOUS DEBUT EP

THERE'S A tantalising grubbiness about this four-track debut. The hard-grafting, dirt-beneath-the-fingernails earthiness, speedy thrash grooves and even the band's Anthrax-referencing name (and its amusingly-infectious acronym) seem crafted to dig under your skin. There's plenty of the 'Thrax's pit-smashing, speed-freak swagger about ridiculously-titled opener F.U.C.K.U. and Lost Generation, but when Viral hits stride with brooding epic Bulldozer, the crowd-bouncing riffs and creeping breakdowns of Machine Head spring more easily to mind. Regardless of where they caught the heavy metal fever, though, this Kent quintet seem unstoppably eager to pass it on.

DOWNLOAD: F.U.C.K.U., Bulldozer.
FOR FANS OF: Pantera, Machine Head.
SAM LAW

Although perhaps more interesting is the spoken-word lecture-y thing the man does on Kiss, in which he reveals just how obsessed he is with New York's most monstrous.

He is nothing, however, next to **SABATON's HEROES ON TOUR (KKKK)** package. Once again, appearing at Wacken (as well as their hometown of Falun), the ludicrous Swedish power-metal soldiers are comedically over the top, but it's awesome. Frontman Joakim Brodén – a man so sensible he lost a drunken bet and had to hike almost 1,000 miles, unprepared, to the Falun show – is like a cartoon action hero brought to life, flexing his muscles as he sings about war, battle and combat. In a really high voice. What could be better? How about footage of them playing with an orchestra? Yep, that's on here, too. Rarely has being so oafish been so absolutely right and proper.

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

Bowling For Soup

DRUNK ENOUGH TO DANCE (JIVE, 2002)

HOW THE TEXAS POP-PUNK KINGS DEFIED NU-METAL MISERY TO MAKE US ALL LAUGH AGAIN

In 2002, nu-metal and all its accompanying darkness ruled the roost. Slipknot had scored the heaviest U.S. Number One ever with Iowa, Korn's angsty metal had made them one of the world's biggest bands and Papa Roach were selling millions. But what was this, hooting and chuckling its way into view, with a beer in one hand and a joke book in the other? Bowling For Soup, of course, and Drunk Enough To Dance was the album they brought with them to remind us that it's okay to turn the frowns upside-down once in a while. Single Girl All The Bad Guys Want (complete with nu-metal pisstake video that pointed and laughed at Limp Bizkit, Staind and Slipknot) was a smash that nabbed these four cheeky chaps a Grammy nomination. As they come out of the world's shortest retirement for a massive UK tour, frontman Jaret Reddick recalls how enormous they became on our shores, in spite of how useless he is at picking singles…

WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER FROM THE RECORDING OF DRUNK ENOUGH TO DANCE?

JARET REDDICK *(VOCALS/GUITAR)*: "It was the first album that I ever sat down and wrote as a full record while I was out on tour. Up until that point, our albums were all kinda written over a long period of time, but this was the first one where I had to come up with a lot of new stuff pretty quick – I think it shows, in a good way."

DID YOU EVER THINK THIS ALBUM WOULD BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS IT WAS?

"Definitely not! It was so, *so* successful in the United Kingdom – our most successful album as far as sales are concerned still, which is crazy. The label we were on at the time in the UK was more of a pop label, and they were pushing Backstreet Boys more than they were pushing us. But that's neither here nor there as far as I'm concerned, as people still got the songs regardless. That's my theory, anyway. If it's on the shelves, then people are going to find it. Also, at that time, nu-metal was pretty big. It was cool, but I can remember hearing, like, Staind and Linkin Park everywhere, and I guess people wanted something a little different and a little more fun. I don't know. To be honest, I'm terrible at picking singles. I am the worst! I had no idea Girl All The Bad Guys Want was going to be so big. I honestly thought that Emily or Life After Lisa would've been the two bigger songs on that record. That has happened to me with every huge hit that we've had!"

GIRL ALL THE BAD GUYS WANT GOT NOMINATED FOR A GRAMMY…

"That was insane. We were touring the UK at the time, and we had to take two nights off fly to New York, go to the Grammys, and then fly back and continue the tour. That is jet-setting – that's crazy. We were on the plane just looking at each other like, 'What is happening? We're just kids from Texas and here we are, this is just nuts!' It was the coolest thing ever. We met B.B. King, Bonnie Raitt and Foo Fighters and all these music people we expected to see there, but then we met, like, [actor] Michael J. Fox and [boxer] Evander Holyfield!"

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD CHANGE ABOUT THE RECORD?

"There were some things that, at the time, I wasn't really into doing. I really thought that Life After Lisa should've been a single, but our label made us record Punk Rock 101 and release that as a single, and rerelease the album with it on. I wondered about doing that. But then, that song was *huge*, and, looking back, they probably made the right decision. But, like I say, I'm *awful* at picking singles!"

Kerrang! Radio play it all at 10pm, February 11!

WORDS: JAMES HINGLE

"I'M TERRIBLE AT PICKING SINGLES!"
JARET REDDICK

DON'T MISS

PARKWAY DRIVE

WINSTON McCALL IS READYING HIMSELF FOR PARKWAY DRIVE'S BIGGEST UK TOUR – BUT NOT BEFORE HE GETS HIS HANDS ON SOME M&S SCONES…

HEY, WINSTON! THESE ARE GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST HEADLINE SHOWS PARKWAY DRIVE HAVE EVER PLAYED IN THE UK – DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE MADE IT?

WINSTON McCALL (*VOCALS*): "(*Laughs*) It depends if you have a destination in the first place! We're definitely psyched, and we are bringing a show that no-one has seen from Parkway before, which is nice. As far as 'making it' goes, we have a lot bigger things in mind in terms of where we can go; it's still just the start for us. That being said, we don't want to sound like arrogant arseholes. We're just so fucking stoked that this tour seems to be lining up so fucking well – it's pretty incredible."

LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE, YOU HAD A LOAD OF SNOW CANNONS. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT THIS TIME?

"I don't want to give away too much. The Parkway Drive that you see onstage now is a more streamlined, inspired unit than it was before. It's everything that you've come to expect from us: it's amped up and way, way bigger – we have things that burn, we have things that explode, as well as a whole bunch of new tunes. It's a *show* now – not just a bunch of random songs."

YOU HAVE SO MANY SONGS NOW, IS IT HARD PICKING A SET LIST THESE DAYS?

"We never really had that problem until this album [Ire]. It's been surprising – a really nice surprise. We have so many old songs that people love, which we don't want to cut out, but all of a sudden we have so many songs from the new album that are our favourites – it's fucking nuts."

> ***"EXPECT THINGS TO BURN AND THINGS THAT EXPLODE!"***
> **WINSTON McCALL**

YOU'VE BEEN COMING TO THE UK FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW – WHAT DELICACIES DO YOU MISS WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE?

"I am sucker for Marks & Spencer's scones. I must sound like a posh twat when I say that! I've actually been given shit up in Scotland – when I came back to the venue with an M&S bag full of scones, one dude was like, '*Go to fucking Tesco, you posh twat.*'"

YOU'RE BRINGING BURY TOMORROW AND THY ART IS MURDER WITH YOU – IS THIS A DESTRUCTIVE TOUR PACKAGE?

"Oh yes! That's pretty obvious (*laughs*). It's going to be great. I'm really stoked that we can bring such an intense package to these venues. It's one thing to play somewhere like The Underworld and it be nuts, but then when you times that by 10, it looks like some fucking scene from Braveheart (*laughs*). I'm psyched on Bury Tomorrow – the new tracks I've heard have been really, really phenomenal and we actually haven't toured with those guys. We've been touring with Thy Art a fair bit, and they're great dudes."

FINALLY, WHAT HAVE PARKWAY DRIVE GOT PLANNED FOR THE REST OF 2016?

"New music, more touring and that's about it! It keeps going in that cycle. We've got some festivals coming up, so we'll be back in the summer. We're going back to America. It doesn't seem to stop – this record has given us running legs, so we're making the most of it and we're pretty psyched."

DATES: London O2 Academy Brixton February 12, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, O2 Academy Glasgow 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder.

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY FEBRUARY 10

CARDIFF All Time Low, Good Charlotte, Against The Current (Arena)
DUBLIN Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters (Kerrang! Tour 2016 @ Academy)
GUILDFORD Bowling For Soup, The Dollyrots, Lacey, MC Lars (G Live)
LONDON Slipknot, Suicidal Tendencies, SikTh (Alexandra Palace)
LONDON The World Is A Beautiful Place…, mewithoutYou (Dome, Tufnell Park)
MANCHESTER Basement, Tigers Jaw, Alex G (Academy 2)
NOTTINGHAM The Front Bottoms, Kevin Devine & The Goddamn Band (Rescue Rooms)
OXFORD TesseracT, The Contortionist, Nordic Giants (O2 Academy Oxford)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11

BRISTOL The World Is A Beautiful Place…, mewithoutYou (Fleece)
CARDIFF The Front Bottoms, Kevin Devine & The Goddamn Band (Globe)
CARDIFF Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters (Kerrang! Tour 2016 @ Uni Great Hall)
GLASGOW Black Peaks (King Tut's)
LONDON All Time Low, Good Charlotte, Against The Current (O2 Arena)
LONDON Bowling For Soup, The Dollyrots, Lacey, MC Lars (Roundhouse, Camden)
NORWICH Basement, Tigers Jaw, Alex G (Waterfront)
PORTSMOUTH TesseracT, The Contortionist, Nordic Giants (Wedgewood Rooms)

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12

BIRMINGHAM Slipknot, Suicidal Tendencies, SikTh (Genting Arena)
BIRMINGHAM Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters (Kerrang! Tour 2016 @ Institute)
BIRMINGHAM The World Is A Beautiful Place…, mewithoutYou (O2 Institute3 Birmingham)
BOURNEMOUTH Bowling For Soup, The Dollyrots, Lacey, MC Lars (O2 Academy Bournemouth)
BRISTOL Cage The Elephant (Bierkeller)
BRISTOL The Front Bottoms, Kevin Devine & The Goddamn Band (Marble Factory)
CARDIFF Snuff (Globe)
GLOUCESTER Black Peaks (Guildhall)
LONDON Millencolin, Templeton Pek (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
LONDON TesseracT, The Contortionist, Nordic Giants (KOKO, Camden)
LONDON Parkway Drive, Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder (O2 Academy Brixton)
MANCHESTER All Time Low, Good Charlotte, Against The Current (Arena)
WOLVERHAMPTON Symphony X, Myrath, Melted Space (Robin 2)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13

BIRMINGHAM All Time Low, Good Charlotte, Against The Current (Barclaycard Arena)
BIRMINGHAM Reigning Days (Sunflower Lounge)
BRIGHTON The Front Bottoms, Kevin Devine & The Goddamn Band (Concorde 2)
GLASGOW Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters (Kerrang! Tour 2016 @ O2 ABC Glasgow)
LEEDS Slipknot, Suicidal Tendencies, SikTh (First Direct Arena)
LONDON Basement, Tigers Jaw, Alex G (KOKO, Camden)
LONDON Cage The Elephant (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
MANCHESTER Symphony X, Myrath, Melted Space (Club Academy)
MANCHESTER Parkway Drive, Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder (O2 Apollo Manchester)
MANCHESTER Millencolin, Templeton Pek (O2 Ritz Manchester)
MANCHESTER The World Is A Beautiful Place…, mewithoutYou (Sound Control)
SOUTHAMPTON Bowling For Soup, The Dollyrots, Lacey, MC Lars (O2 Guildhall Southampton)
SOUTHAMPTON Black Peaks (Talking Heads)
WOLVERHAMPTON Snuff (Slade Rooms)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14

BIRMINGHAM Stick To Your Guns, Stray From The Path, Counterparts (Warehouse)
BRISTOL Millencolin, Templeton Pek (Bierkeller)
BRISTOL Aghast! (Gryphon)
CARDIFF Bowling For Soup, The Dollyrots, Lacey, MC Lars (Great Hall)
COLCHESTER Black Peaks (Arts Centre)
GLASGOW The World Is A Beautiful Place…, mewithoutYou (O2 ABC2 Glasgow)
GLASGOW Parkway Drive, Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder (O2 Academy Glasgow)
NEWCASTLE Snuff (Think Tank?)
NOTTINGHAM Cage The Elephant (Rescue Rooms)
PORTSMOUTH The Front Bottoms, Kevin Devine & The Goddamn Band (Wedgewood Rooms)

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15

BIRMINGHAM Parkway Drive, Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder (O2 Academy Birmingham)
BRISTOL Kataklysm, Septicflesh, Aborted (Fleece)
BRISTOL Bowling For Soup, The Dollyrots, Lacey, MC Lars (O2 Academy Bristol)
GLASGOW Snuff (Cathouse)
GLASGOW All Time Low, Good Charlotte, Against The Current (Hydro)
MANCHESTER Stick To Your Guns, Stray From The Path, Counterparts (Sound Control)
NEWCASTLE Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters (Kerrang! Tour 2016 @ Uni)
NEWCASTLE Cage The Elephant (Riverside)
NORWICH Black Peaks (Arts Centre)
SHEFFIELD Symphony X, Myrath, Melted Space (Corporation)

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16

DUBLIN All Time Low, Good Charlotte, Against The Current (3 Arena)
GLASGOW Kataklysm, Septicflesh, Aborted (Audio)
GLASGOW Stick To Your Guns, Stray From The Path, Counterparts (Classic Grand)
GLASGOW Symphony X, Myrath, Melted Space (Garage)
GLASGOW Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters (Kerrang! Tour 2016 @ UEA)
GLASGOW Cage The Elephant (QMU)
LEEDS Snuff (Key Club)
LONDON Escape The Fate, Fearless Vampire, New Years Day, Like A Storm (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
LONDON The Front Bottoms, Kevin Devine & The Goddamn Band (KOKO, Camden)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: Fearless Vampire Killers
The New Grave mob require lots of carrots! See, what your mum has been telling you is true. They do make you see in the dark…

24 x plastic bottles of still water pre-show, and 12 x onstage
12 x cans or bottles of quality lager (5%)
70cl bottle of white rum
2 x 2 litre bottle of Diet Coca-Cola
8 x cans of diet energy drink
Carton of orange juice (no pulp)
Large bucket of ice
2 x packs of Ryvita or something similar
Bag of carrot sticks
Multipack of Walkers Sunbites or Baked Walkers Crisps
1 x bag of apples
Pack of low-fat cream cheese
Tub of reduced-fat red pepper hummus
Ricola Natural Herb throat lozenges or Vocalzones
Cups for drinks
Plates for sandwiches
Cutlery for sandwiches
8 x small hand towels

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

6 INSANELY GOOD GOOD CHARLOTTE VIDEOS

KERRANG! TV – FEBRUARY 12, 3:30PM
While the pop-punks work on their big comeback album – which should be coming any day now **glares at the Madden brothers** – here are six insanely good Good Charlotte videos…

ENTER SHIKARI – LIVE ACOUSTIC SET AT ALEXANDRA PALACE

KERRANG.COM
How do you warm up for your biggest UK headline tour? By playing in Ally Pally's abandoned theatre, that's how! The St Albans mob have even released this performance as a live EP. Head to Kerrang.com to watch the set.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS – 2015 IN REVIEW

KERRANG.COM
They played UK headline shows, then took on America's Warped Tour, went to Asia, smashed Reading & Leeds and supported Bullet For My Valentine… phew! Now you lucky lot can watch highlights from the Sheffield metallers' momentous year. Talk about showing off, guys…

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: CURL UP AND DIE, GROG SHOP, LAS VEGAS, 2002

THE PANIC! AT THE DISCO FRONTMAN WASN'T ALWAYS A BACHELOR. HE WAS ONCE A GIG-NINJA BACK AT HIS FIRST-EVER SHOW…

BRENDON URIE, PANIC! AT THE DISCO

"My first gig was a Curl Up And Die show. It was in Las Vegas and I was, like, 14 and not allowed to go to concerts, so I snuck out of my house with my friend Eric.

"My parents had this two-storey house – so, when sneaking out, I would have to open up my window and jump from my second storey to the grass, and do a karate ninja-roll. At that point I wasn't driving, so my friend would have to turn his car off, put it in neutral and push it down the road so we didn't wake my parents up.

"When I got there it was just liberating, seeing this crowd of kids wind-milling and punching each other, but, like, smiling and hugging each other. I was just like, 'This is awesome, this is rock, man, and I'm fucking into it!' I never really got the pit. I was the guy in the back just bopping his head and screaming along.

"Did it make me wanna be in a band? Oh, yeah, yeah! At that point, I was just starting to get into the hardcore scene and I had just started my first hardcore band with just one other guy. It was me on guitar screaming and him on drums. We were like a terrible White Stripes – it was really bad *(laughs)*!"

WORDS: JENNIFER J. WALKER

SPOTLIGHT ON...

CARDIFF

THE VALLEYS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC...

DANNI MONROE (VOCALS), THE DIRTY YOUTH

WHAT WAS THE CARDIFF SCENE LIKE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

"**Cardiff** was an amazing city to grow up in. The music scene has always been lively – and not just the rock scene. There has always been a great variety of music in the venues of **Cardiff**, from home-grown talent to the best touring bands. I remember seeing bands like **Bullet For My Valentine**, **My Chemical Romance** and **Slipknot** at **The Motorpoint Arena**, which was called **The CIA** at the time, and thinking that's what I wanted to do – be on that big stage and playing for a massive crowd."

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT THE LOCAL SCENE NOW?

"The quality of bands is outstanding for such a small area – it keeps you on your toes. It's not a big secret that there's a lot of friendly rivalries between bands, and I think that's what keeps the quality so high and is a good thing. It was a big blow to the scene when bands like **The Blackout** and **Kids In Glass Houses** decided to call it a day, as they really drove the scene forward. They were hard working bands just like ourselves, and to see them go was disheartening. Things are really picking up again, and we really want to push the scene forward and show the younger bands coming through that anything is possible."

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES FROM PLAYING IN CARDIFF – WHAT ARE THE KEY VENUES?

"There's so many great venues in **Cardiff**, such as **The Motorpoint Arena** and **The Great Hall** at **Cardiff University** where you can catch some of the biggest bands on the planet, but it's at **Clwb Ifor Bach** and **The Globe** where you'll catch the best up-and-coming bands to break through. **Clwb Ifor Bach** is where we cut our teeth in the early days, supporting many bands coming through on tours. Personally, my favourite show we have played in **Cardiff** was last year when we announced a special Christmas show in a really cool, intimate venue called **The Moon Club**. It sold out straight away, and it got real sweaty in there – you could barely move!"

ARE THERE ANY KEY FIGURES IN THE COMMUNITY WHO CAN HELP MAKE-OR-BREAK BANDS?

"There are plenty of key figures who can help you out, such as **Bethan Elfyn** from **BBC Wales**, who can open many doors for your band, and **Morgan Richards** from **Cardiff Radio**, who is a long time supporter of up and coming talent. There are plenty of great promoters such as **Dave Driscoll** and **Dean Whittaker** who put on loads of great shows and often put on great local support bands."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO BANDS TRYING TO MAKE IT IN THIS TOWN?

"Just get out there and make it happen. There's so many music lovers in **Cardiff**, and you just need to make them listen in whatever way you can. Get your stuff together and get out on the streets and bars with flyers and demos – talk to people and let them know you exist. It's pretty old-school, but it still works. Hound promoters for support slots with touring bands, as there's plenty coming through and you can learn a lot from these shows and pick up fans pretty quickly."

On the outside: a shopping mall. On the inside: a killer venue...

The venue that keeps giving bach to Cardiff

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

BOOKING NOW

2000TREES
Line-up: Twin Atlantic, Refused, Moose Blood, WSTR, While She Sleeps, Palm Reader and loads more! Cheltenham Upcote Farm July 7 – 9.

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
Sheffield Arena April 5, London O2 Arena 7 – 8, Leeds First Direct Arena 11, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 12, Birmingham Genting Arena 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 18, Glasgow SSE Hydro 19 – 20, Manchester Arena 22 – 23, Belfast SSE Arena 25, Dublin 3Arena 26 – 27.

AC/DC
London Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Stadium June 4, Manchester Etihad Stadium 9.

ALICE COOPER
Stone Free Festival @ London O2 Arena June 18 – 19.

ALL TIME LOW
Cardiff Arena February 10, London O2 Arena 11, Manchester Arena 12, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 15, Dublin 3Arena 16. Support: Good Charlotte, Against The Current.

AMERICAN IDIOT: THE MUSICAL
Leicester Curve Theatre March 19 – 26, Bromley Churchill Theatre March 30 – April 2, Manchester Palace Theatre 4 – 9, Cardiff New Theatre April 19 – 23, Portsmouth Kings Theatre April 26 – 30, Oxford New Theatre May 3 – 7, Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre May 10 – 14, Sunderland Empire May 24 – 28, Glasgow King's Theatre May 31 – June 4.

AMON AMARTH
Dublin Vicar Street March 26, London Camden Roundhouse 27. Support: Le Butcherettes.

AT THE DRIVE-IN
London Camden Underworld March 22.

BABYMETAL
London SSE Arena Wembley April 2.

BARONESS
Southampton Engine Room February 24, O2 Ritz Manchester 25, Leeds University Stylus 26, Clydebank Garage 28, O2 Institute Birmingham 29, London Camden KOKO March 1.

BASEMENT
Manchester Academy II February 10, Norwich Waterfront 11, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 12.

BLIND GUARDIAN
Glasgow Queen Margaret Union May 17, O2 Ritz Manchester 18, Dublin Academy 19, Nottingham Rock City 21, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 22.

BLOODSTOCK
Line-up: Slayer, Mastodon, Twisted Sister, Venom, Behemoth, DragonForce, Paradise Lost, Rotting Christ, Anthrax, Gojira, Satyricon, Fear Factory, Symphony X, Acid Reign, Metal Allegiance, Stuck Mojo, Goatwhore. Derbyshire Catton Park August 11 – 14.

BRIAN FALLON & THE CROWES
O2 Ritz Manchester April 5, O2 ABC Glasgow 6, O2 Institute Birmingham 7, London Camden KOKO 8 , Nottingham Rock City 9, O2 Academy Bristol 10.

BRING ME THE HORIZON
London Royal Albert Hall April 22. London O2 Arena October 31, Bournemouth BIC November 1, Nottingham Arena 2, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 4, London O2 Arena 5, Sheffield Arena 6, Manchester Arena 8, Glasgow SSE Hydro 9.

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
Newport Centre November 24, O2 Academy Newcastle 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 30, Manchester Academy December 3, O2 Academy Birmingham 6, London O2 Academy Brixton.

CHRIS CORNELL
Belfast Ulster Hall April 24, Dublin Olympia Theatre 25, Manchester Bridgewater 27, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall 29, Bristol Colston Hall 30, Birmingham Symphony Hall May 2, London Royal Albert Hall 3.

CITY AND COLOUR
Brighton Dome February 18, Cardiff Great Hall 19, Manchester Albert Hall 20, Dublin The Helix 22, Belfast Mandela Hall 23, O2 Academy Glasgow 24, London Troxy 26 – 27.

CONVERGE
London Brixton Electric April 13. Support: Blood Moon.

COUNTERFEIT
Nottingham Rock City April 18, Glasgow King Tut's 19, Manchester Deaf Institute 20, O2 Temple At The Institute Birmingham 21, London Camden Electric Ballroom 23.

CRADLE OF FILTH
Chester Live Rooms March 12, Dublin Academy 13, Belfast Limelight 14. Support: Winterfylleth.

CREEPER
London Camden Underworld March 3. Support: Grader.

CROOKS
Birmingham Asylum II March 2, Cardiff Fuel Club 3, London Garage 4, Edinburgh Mash House 5, Manchester Deaf Institute 6. Support: Solemn Sun, Milestones (London only), Omaha.

CROSSFAITH
Southend Chinnery's March 16, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 17, Brighton Haunt 18, Cardiff Y Plas 19, Plymouth Hub 20, Leeds Key Club 22, Reading Sub 89 23, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 24, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 25, Manchester Academy II 26, Glasgow King Tut's 28, Sheffield Corporation 29, Norwich Waterfront 30, London Brixton Electric 31.

DEAFHEAVEN
Bristol Fleece March 13, London Heaven 14. Support: Myrkr.

DEFEATER
O2 Academy3 March 14, Glasgow Cottiers Theatre 15, Manchester Star & Garter 16, London King's Cross Scala 17. Support: Break Even, Kids Insane.

THE DEFILED
Norwich Waterfront Studio May 3, Swansea Scene 4, Chester Live Rooms 5, Newcastle Think Tank? 6, Sheffield Corporation 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, York Duchess 10, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 11, Oxford Bullingdon 12. Support: Forever Never.

DEFTONES
London SSE Arena Wembley June 3.

DESERTFEST
Line-up: Electric Wizard, Elder, Godflesh, Crowbar, Conan, Raging Speedhorn, Witchsorrow. London various venues April 29 – May 1.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Line-up: Rammstein, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Korn, Megadeth, Disturbed, Nightwish, Deftones, The Amity Affliction, Counting Days, Gutterdämmerung, Havok, Killswitch Engage, Skillet, Twin Atlantic, Fort Hope, Architects, Atreyu, Beartooth, Black Foxxes, Dead!, Down, Milk Teeth, Neck Deep, Rival Sons, Skindred, TesseracT, Lawnmower Deth, Attila, Billy Talent, Breaking Benjamin, Delain, Don Broco, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Ghost, Gojira, Halestorm, Ho99o9, Saxon, Shinedown, Tremonti. Donington Park June 10 – 12.

DREAM THEATER
London Palladium February 18.

ENTER SHIKARI
O2 Academy Glasgow February 18, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 19, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 20, Bournemouth BIC 22, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 23, Manchester Victoria Warehouse 25, London Alexandra Palace 27. Support: The Wonder Years., The King Blues.

ESCAPE THE FATE
London Camden Electric Ballroom February 16. Support: Fearless Vampire Killers, New Years Day, Like A Storm.

EVERY TIME I DIE
London Borderline May 31, London Camden Underworld June 1, London Tufnell Park Dome 2, London Old Blue Last 3.

FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS
O2 Academy2 Newcastle March 2, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 3, Edinburgh Electric Circus 4, Sheffield Corporation 5, Liverpool Arts Club 7, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 8, Southampton Talking Heads 9, Norwich Arts Centre 10. Support: Vukovi, Miss Vincent.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
Stoke Sugarmill February 17, Brighton Haunt 20.

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
Cardiff Y Plas April 5 – 6, Manchester Ritz 8 – 9, Glasgow O2 ABC 10 – 11, Birmingham O2 Institute 13 – 14, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 15 – 16. Support: Shai Hulud, ZOAX.

GHOST
London Palladium March 2. Support: Poltergeist.

HACKTIVIST
Newcastle Think Tank? February 26, Peterborough Met Lounge 27, Southampton Joiners 28, Birmingham Rainbow March 1, Liverpool Arts Club 2. Support: Counting Days.

HEVY FEST
Line-up: Refused, SikTh, While She Sleeps, H2O,

Gnarwolves, Animals As Leaders, Hacktivist, Krokodil, No Consequence, Devil Sold His Soul, Forever Never, Vukovi, Murdock, When Our Time Comes. Derbyshire Newhaven August 19 – 20.

HECK
Nottingham Rescue Rooms March 11, Newcastle Think Tank? 13, Glasgow Cathouse 14, Manchester Star & Garter 15, Cheltenham Frog & Fiddle 17, Swansea Riff Raff @ Sin City 18, Bath Moles 19, Southampton Joiners 20, London Borderline 21.

IGGY POP & JOSH HOMME
London Royal Albert Hall May 18.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL
Line-up: Hatebreed, Northlane, Emmure, blessthefall, Chelsea Grin, Hundreth, Despised Icon, Heart Of A Coward, Hellions, Cabin Boy Jumped Ship. Manchester Academy May 2, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 3.

IN THIS MOMENT
London O2 Forum Kentish Town May 25, Birmingham Institute 26, Manchester Academy 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 28. Support: The Defiled.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Line-up: Queen + Adam Lambert, Stereophonics, Twin Atlantic, Sixx:A.M and more! Seaclose Park, Newport June 9 – 12.

ISSUES
Cardiff Y Plas May 24, London Camden KOKO 25, O2 Manchester Ritz 26, Glasgow Garage 27, Southampton Engine Rooms 31.

THE JOY FORMIDABLE
Manchester Deaf Institute February 21, Cardiff Ifor Bach 22, London Oslo 23, Birmingham Rainbow Courtyard 24, Glasgow King Tut's 25.

KERRANG! TOUR 2016
Line-up: Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters. Dublin Academy February 10, Cardiff Great Hall 11, Birmingham O2 Institute 12, O2 ABC Glasgow 13, Newcastle University 15, Norwich UEA 16, Manchester Albert Hall 18, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 19.

LIFE OF AGONY
London Camden Electric Ballroom March 17, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 18, Manchester Club Academy 19.

MACHINE HEAD
Norwich Open March 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, Belfast Limelight 5, Dublin Olympia 6, Manchester Academy 8, Cardiff Great Hall 10, London Eventim Apollo 11, O2 Academy Glasgow 12.

MANIC STREET PREACHERS
Swansea Liberty Stadium May 28, Echo Arena May 13, Birmingham Genting Arena 14, London Royal Albert Hall 16 – 17, Leeds First Direct Arena 20, Glasgow SSE Hydro 21. Support: Editors.

MAYBESHEWILL
London Camden KOKO April 15.

MEMPHIS MAY FIRE
London Camden Electric Ballroom May 31. Support: We Came As Romans, Miss May I.

MINISTRY
Cardiff Tramshed August 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 17, O2 Institute Birmingham 18, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, London O2 Forum Kentish Town. Support: DevilDriver.

MONSTER MAGNET
London O2 Forum Kentish Town March 19. Support: Orange Goblin, Scorpion Child.

MOOSE BLOOD
Bristol Fleece April 13, Southampton 1865 14, London O2 Academy Islington 15, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 16, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 17, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 18, Manchester Sound Control 20, Newcastle Academy II 21, Edinburgh Mash House 22, Liverpool Arts Club 23.

MUSE
Birmingham Barclaycard Arena April 2, London O2 Arena 3, Dublin 3Arena 5, Belfast SSE Arena 6, Manchester Arena 8 – 9, London O2 Arena 11 – 15, Glasgow SSE Hydro 17 – 18.

NECK DEEP
O2 Guildhall Southampton April 16, Newcastle University Student Union 18, Leeds Beckett University 19, O2 Academy Liverpool 20. Support: Creeper, WSTR.

PARKWAY DRIVE
London O2 Academy Brixton February 12, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, O2 Academy Glasgow 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder.

PURSON
Bristol Louisiana March 9, Nottingham Rock City 10, Norwich Waterfront Studio 11, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 12, London 100 Club 16, Exeter Cavern Club 24, Plymouth Junction 25, Southampton Joiners 26, Brighton Hope & Ruin 27, Birmingham Sunflower Lounge 30, Manchester Night & Day 31, Glasgow Audio April 1, Leeds Brudenell 2.

PVRIS
Brighton Concorde April 1, Norwich UEA 2, Newcastle Riverside 3, Glasgow Garage 4, Manchester Academy 6, Cardiff Great Hall 8, O2 Institute Birmingham 9. Support: K.Flay, Bones and Alvarez Kings (select dates).

READING & LEEDS 2016
Line-up: Red Hot Chili Peppers, twenty one pilots, Slaves, Crossfaith, Eagles Of Death Metal and more! Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 26 – 28.

RECKLESS LOVE
Bristol Thekla March 4, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 5, Leeds Key Club 6, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 7, Glasgow Cathouse 9, Manchester Gorilla 10, Nottingham Rock City 12, London King's Cross Scala 31.

REFUSED
Glasgow Garage March 22, Manchester Academy 23, Leeds Stylus 24, Brighton Concorde II 25, Birmingham Library 26. Support: Anna Von Hausswolff.

SAOSIN
London O2 Academy Islington April 30.

SIMPLE PLAN
O2 Academy Bristol March 20, Nottingham Rock City 22, Manchester Ritz 23, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 24. Support: Ghost Town.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Panic! At The Disco, Of Mice & Men, New Found Glory, Mallory Knox, Four Year Strong, The Starting Line, Set Your Goals, Every Time I Die, Issues, Memphis May Fire, Zebrahead, Capdown, Real Friends, Miss May I, We Came As Romans. Slam Dunk North – Leeds City Centre May 28, Slam Dunk Midlands – Birmingham NEC 29, Slam Dunk South – Hatfield University Of Hertfordshire 30.

SLEEP
London O2 Forum Kentish Town July 6.

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS
O2 Academy Bristol February 29, Nottingham Rock City March 1, O2 Academy Glasgow 2, O2 Apollo Manchester 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, London Camden Roundhouse 6. Support: As It Is, This Wild Life, Beach Weather.

SLIPKNOT
London Alexandra Palace February 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Leeds First Direct Arena 13. Support: Suicidal Tendencies, Sik Th.

STEEL PANTHER
London 100 Club February 22.

THE SUMMER SET
Bristol Thekla May 10, London King's Cross Scala 12, Birmingham Asylum 13, Leeds Key Club 14, Glasgow G2 15, Manchester Club Academy 17, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 18, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 19.

TECH-FEST
Line-up: Protest The Hero, Between The Buried And Me, Fit For An Autopsy, Textures, Aegaeon, Destiny Potato, Disperse, Shields, Cold Night For Alligators, Vitalism, The Hirsch Effekt, The Green River Burial, Sworn Amongst, Tardive Diskinesia, Suasion, Harbinger, Make Me A Donut. Newark Showground July 7 – 11.

THEORY OF A DEADMAN
Newcastle University February 27, O2 ABC Glasgow 28, Leeds Beckett SU 29, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire March 2, Cardiff Y Plas Students Union 3, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 4, O2 Ritz Manchester 5, Norwich Waterfront 6.

TONIGHT ALIVE
London O2 Forum Kentish Town February 18, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, Newcastle University 20, O2 ABC Glasgow 21, Portsmouth Pyramids Centre 23, O2 Academy Bristol 24, O2 Institute Birmingham 26. Support: Our Last Night, Milk Teeth.

TRIVIUM
Norwich UEA March 20, Ipswich Corn Exchange 21, Portsmouth Pyramids 22, Bristol Academy 23, O2 Academy Oxford 25, Lincoln Engine Shed 26, O2 Academy Leicester 27, York Barbican 29, Middlesbrough Empire 30, Aberdeen Beach Ballroom 31, Kilmarnock Grand Hall April 1.

TWENTY ONE PILOTS
O2 Academy Leeds February 18, O2 Academy Newcastle 19, Glasgow Barrowland 20, Manchester Academy 21, O2 Academy Birmingham 23, London O2 Academy Brixton 24 – 25, Nottingham Rock City 27, O2 Academy Bristol 28, Portsmouth Guildhall 29.

THE USED
O2 Academy Leeds February 20 – 21, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 22 and 24.

WEDNESDAY 13 (UNDEAD, UNPLUGGED)
Newcastle Think Tank? February 24, Norwich Waterfront 25, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 26, London Camden Underworld 27, Bristol Thekla 28, Nottingham Rescue Rooms March 1, York Duchess 2, Birmingham Oobleck 3, Huddersfield Parish 4, Manchester Satan's Hollow 5.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS
Mansfield Intake March 16, Hull Adelphi 17, Huddersfield Parish 18, Bolton Alma 19, Corby Zombie Hut 20, Gravesend Red Lion 22, Brighton Haunt 23, Plymouth Junction 24, Oxford Bullingdon 25, Doncaster Vintage 26.

WOLF ALICE
Belfast Mandela Hall March 4, Dublin Olympia 5, Stoke-On-Trent Keele Uni Students Union 7, Manchester Academy 10, Norwich UEA 11, O2 Academy Oxford 13, Portsmouth Pyramids 14, Glasgow Barrowland 16, York Barbican 17, O2 Academy Leeds 19, Folkestone Cliff Halls 21, Brighton Dome 22, Nottingham Rock City 23, Cardiff Great Hall 24, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 26 – 27.

WOLFMOTHER
Manchester Academy April 9, O2 Academy Newcastle 10, O2 Academy Glasgow 11, O2 Academy Leeds 13, Nottingham Rock City 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 16, O2 Academy Bristol 17, O2 Guildhall Southampton 18, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 20.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL

Latest additions: Sixx:A.M., Amon Amarth, Monster Truck, NOFX, Jane's Addiction, Graveyard, Bury Tomorrow, ONE OK ROCK, Periphery, Alien Ant Farm, Grand Magus, ZOAX, Hill Valley High, Anti-Flag, Escape The Fate, Danko Jones, Turbowolf, SHVPES, Electric Wizard, The King Is Blind, Kadaver, Municipal Waste, Cane Hill, Slaves (U.S.), Wage War, Palisades, Ashestoangels, The Kenneths, Muncie Girls, HECK, As Lions, Whiskey Myers, Black Peaks, Reigning Days, Strange Bones, Good Tiger.

JUST ANNOUNCED

AGAINST THE CURRENT
London Camden KOKO March 21. Support: ROAM.

CREEPER
Support added: Blood Youth, Muskets.

THE DEFILED
Norwich Waterfront Studio May 3, Swansea Scene 4, Chester Live Rooms 5, Newcastle Think Tank? 6, Sheffield Corporation 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, York Duchess 10, Milton Keynes Crauford Arms 11, Oxford Bullingdon 12. Support: Forever Never.

MORGOTH
London Nambucca April 4, Glasgow Audio 21, Bristol Bierkeller 22. Support: Incantation, Darkrise, Methedras, Omophagia.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Latest additions: Yellowcard, Mayday Parade, Hit The Lights, ROAM, Northlane, Hacktivist, Cancer Bats, Norma Jean.

PHOTOS: IAN COLLINS

‘Would I have made it without the MU? Probably. If I was starting out again, would I still join? Definitely.’

—

‘The MU has been around even longer than me. Helping musicians of all ages and genres. Let’s make sure they continue to do so.

—

Jimmy Page

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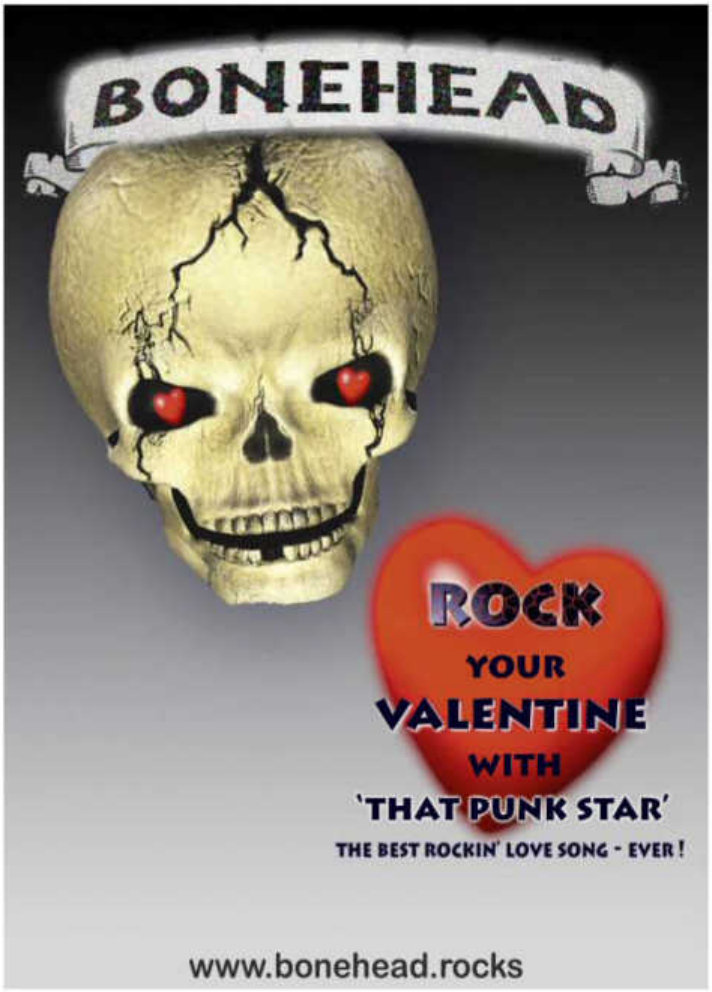

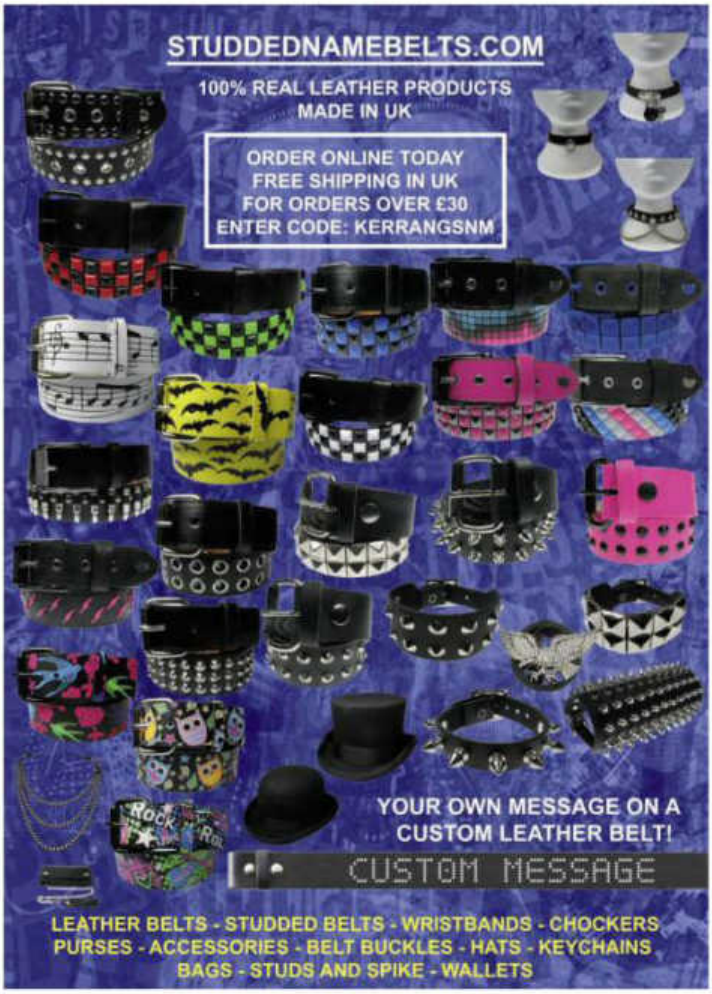
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NEXT WEEK
ON SALE **FEBRUARY 17**

I DIDN'T SEE A *SINGLE* PERSON RUN AWAY.
I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE LEAVE THEIR *FRIENDS* BEHIND.
I SAW PEOPLE *DEAD* BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T…
Eagles Of
DEATH METAL
LIFE AFTER THE BATACLAN
PHOTO: LISA JOHNSON

EDITORIAL

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM DATE?

EDITOR: James McMahon *(Dinogolf)*
DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner *(A quiet evening reading shark books)*
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech *(Four cans of warm lager and a pizza in front of Corrie)*
PRODUCTION EDITOR: Ryan Cooper *(A Mötley Crüe show and a JD)*
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare *(Zoo)*
PICTURE EDITOR: Scarlet Borg *(The XX in Shoreditch)*
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Ruskell *(Gillian McKeith)*
NEWS EDITOR: Jennyfer J. Walker *(All-you-can-drink champagne bar with Zac Efron)*
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dykzeul *(Pizza and a kung-fu double bill)*
NEW MUSIC EDITOR/EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/SUB: Emily Carter *(Not fussy… drinking cider and eating chips on the beach)*
DESIGNER: Sophie Bland *(Xbox + Beer + Pizza)*
LISTINGS EDITOR: James Hingle *(Nando's with Laura. HI, LAURA!)*

CONTRIBUTING ED: Katie Parsons *(Ice-cream in a park in the sunshine)*

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INTERN OF THE WEEK: Hannah Strong
For all work experience opportunities, check out GoThinkBig.co.uk.

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THE ULTIMATE

VALENTINE'S TEST

GENE SIMMONS

KISS

GENE NAMED HIS BAND KISS, WHICH IS VALENTINE'S GOLD. AND HE IS, ACCORDING TO THE SONG, DR. LOVE. COME ON THEN, PROVE IT…

ON LOVE'N'ROLL…

HAVE YOU EVER RISKED YOUR LIFE IN THE NAME OF LOVE?

"I've been blessed, and have never been in a situation where I had to risk my life for love. But would I? Of course. For my family, and my country."

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE TO WIN SOMEONE'S HEART?

"Married her. My wife, Shannon, has stood by me for 29 years, and never forced the issue of marriage. And I finally popped the question. We have been together almost 33 years, but married only three years."

WHAT'S THE BEST THING THAT A GIRLFRIEND HAS EVER DONE FOR YOU?

"Again, I am the luckiest guy in the world, and I have gotten amazing things. But Shannon gave me something that had to do with cloning. I can't be more specific than that, but it knocked my socks off."

So, you're Jango Fett and you're building a massive clone army of yourself. Gotcha!

DATING DISASTERS…

WHAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE AS A VALENTINE'S GESTURE?

"Difficult question. Quite honestly, I have always tried to be thoughtful. Buying a box of chocolates, by the way, just won't do it. Ask any girl, what's better – diamonds or chocolate?"

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR BIGGEST-EVER ROMANTIC REGRET?

"I have had no regrets. I was completely committed to being selfish and, yes, arrogant so that I could achieve my dreams. And I did that. And then opened up my heart and my life to family and children. No regrets."

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN COMPLETELY BLOWN OFF BY A POTENTIAL BEAU?

"Of course. And any guy who tells you he has not, does what guys do best. We lie. I have been blown off many times. But since the male of the species has to make the first move, usually, we develop a thick skin early on in life. We just keep swinging the bat, so to speak – oh, that's right, the UK doesn't have baseball. That's an American phrase that involves swinging the bat until you hit the ball over the fence, like getting a goal."

Thanks for clearing that up. Hey, cricket, we've got an idea…

LOVESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS…

WHAT'S THE MOST YOU'VE SPENT ON LOOKING ATTRACTIVE?

"Haha! There are quite a few jokes in there, but I will resist temptation. Taking the piss out of myself is something I have no problem doing. I don't spend much time or much money on trying to look attractive. I have a mop of hair that some people think looks silly, but I love my hair and that's all that counts. I'm not the best-looking guy in the world, but I'm also not the worst-looking guy in the world. And perhaps my most attractive feature, I am told, is that I am fearless when I meet anyone, and look into their eyes."

WHO'S THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON YOU'VE EVER ASKED OUT?

"Cher, and Diana Ross. Did it go well? Not really."

WHERE'S BEEN THE MOST GLAMOROUS PLACE YOU'VE EVER GONE ON A DATE?

"My home. It's pretty glamorous. I could say the Playboy Mansion, but that's all fluff."

You heard it here first: Playboy Mansion, made out of fluff, not bricks. Possible health and safety issue, there…

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL…

A LOVE-CRAZED FAN TURNS UP AT YOUR DOOR – DO YOU CHUCK THEM OUT OR LET THEM DOWN GENTLY?

"Respectfully, I try to avoid those situations. While I am certainly appreciative and try to be nice at all times, I consider anyone who comes knocking on my door as crossing the line. I would never come knocking on your door uninvited, don't do it to me."

YOU'RE IN A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT AND THE DOCTOR ONLY HAS TIME TO SAVE YOUR TOP-HALF GOOD LOOKS OR YOUR BELOW-THE-BELT FUNCTIONALITY. WHICH?

"Save my schmeckle. At all costs."

Dear Hollywood, please make this into an action movie where Gene only has 24 hours to save his junk. Thanks

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER…

IS IT TRUE THAT 'TRUE LOVE NEVER DIES'?

"Unfortunately, it may not be true. The idea of it may last in your memory forever. But people change. And often, that dilutes the true love. Sorry to say."

Um, thanks. Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

"MY WIFE GOT ME A GIFT THAT INVOLVED CLONING…"

GENE SIMMONS

THE VERDICT

WE EXPECTED GENE TO BE A BIT RUDER THAN THIS. BUT HE'S STILL ROCK'S LEADING LOTHARIO

SCORE 93%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	ALICE COOPER	99%
2	GENE SIMMONS KISS	93%
3	BRENDON URIE PANIC! AT THE DISCO	85%
4	DERYCK WHIBLEY SUM 41	83%
5	ALEX GASKARTH ALL TIME LOW	75%
6	DENIS STOFF ASKING ALEXANDRIA	73%
7	NEIL FALLON CLUTCH	69%
8	??????? ???????	???
9	??????? ???????	???
10	??????? ???????	???
11	??????? ???????	???
12	??????? ???????	???
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WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

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THE MINDSWEEP TOUR. UK. 2016

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the WONDER years + THE KING BLUES

FEBRUARY 2016

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FRI	19	EDINBURGH	CORN EXCHANGE
SAT	20	NOTTINGHAM	MOTORPOINT ARENA
MON	22	BOURNEMOUTH	BIC SOLENT HALL
TUE	23	CARDIFF	MOTORPOINT ARENA
THU	25	MANCHESTER	VICTORIA WAREHOUSE
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